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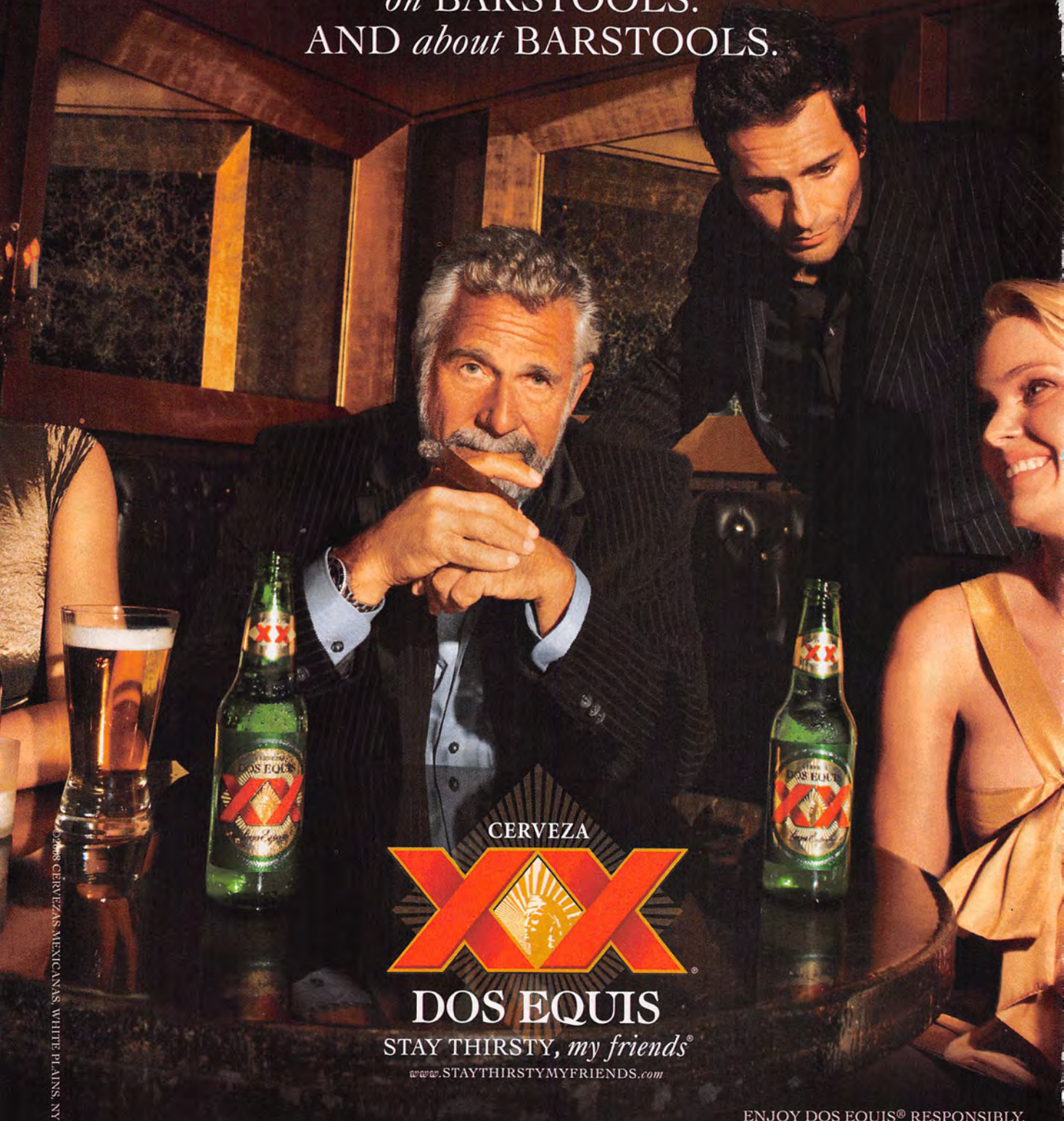
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on BARSTOOLS.
AND *about* BARSTOOLS.



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76

Nadine Velazquez

The *My Name Is Earl* sexpot dishes about crotchless panties, dressing up like a maid, and Carmen Miranda headgear. We're not kidding.

54 Megan Fox

She's morphed from *Transformers* temptress into the Hottest Chick on the Planet. And we've got her sexiest shoot ever!

61 48 Hours in Las Vegas

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84 Mock the Vote: The 2008 Election Quiz

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94 To Live, Die, and Party in L.A.

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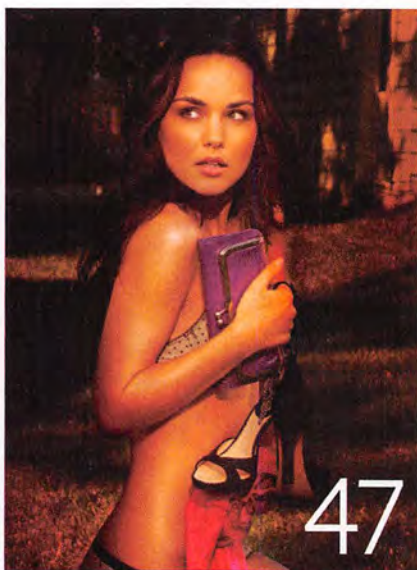
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18 Incoming

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Our definitive fall TV preview breaks down the best shows of the season, Shia LaBeouf's last day on Earth, Ridley Scott's *Body of Lies*, and Ciara shows just how sexy an R&B songbird can be.

37 Stuff

Drool over a \$230,000 titanium superbike, covet Kevin Dillon's classic Porsche Spyder, ogle the finest flat-screens, and bunk down with the coolest camping gear ever. Sweet!

47 Columns

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Style Straighten that tie, mister! Dapper TV dudes Zachary Quinto, Neil Patrick Harris, Linus Roache, Zachary Levi, Matthew Rhys, and Damian Lewis get fashionable for fall.

120 Decider

President Bush has only a few months left in office, but that doesn't mean we can't turn another sovereign nation into a fine red, white, and blue mist. Who should we invade next?

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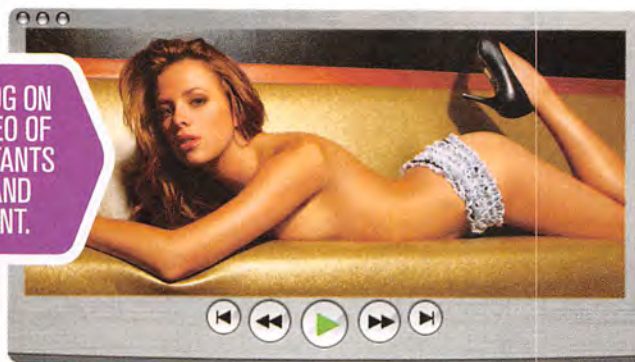


ONE HOMETOWN HOTTIE TO RULE THEM ALL



From 1,000 hopefuls to 10 finalists—you've mercilessly narrowed the hometown field. But who will join last year's winner, Erin McKinnon (left), as a hottie champ? You decide!

PLUS: LOG ON FOR VIDEO OF CONTESTANTS PAST AND PRESENT.



THE NEW "GUY TV BLOG"

TV's fall lineup getting you down? Check our suggested viewing every weekday on our spankin'-new TV blog and hit the couch.



VEGAS VACATION

Read "48 Hours in Vegas" (p.63), then follow our Maxim.com correspondent as he plans and takes the definitive road trip to Sin City.



SIDELINE TO SIDELINE: THE SEXIEST NFL CHEERLEADERS



Which NFL team's sideline sirens take the golden pompoms as pigskin's most stunning cheerleaders? This season, help us choose. Seriously, we're up to our eyes in pep.



PHONING IT IN

School's back in session, so show-and-tell the class these Maxim goodies available on your phone.

- 1 Check out oodles of funny/sexy/painful videos on V CAST On Demand's Maxim channel.
- 2 A new Today's Girl every weekday. Text MAXGAL to 44636 (4INFO).
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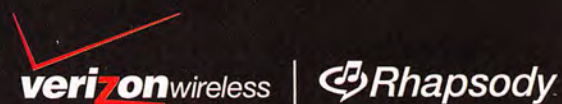


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What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Then one day that special thing that happened grows old enough to buy itself a bus ticket, and the next thing you know there's an eyebrow-pierced meth head standing on your porch calling you "Daddy." The lesson here? Of the many gambles you can take in Las Vegas, using "slightly irregular" discount condoms should not be one of them.

Over the years the staff here at the magazine has amassed a treasure trove of desert-survival secrets such as this, so we decided to use our collective knowledge for the greater good: Presenting *Maxim's* complimentary-cocktail-soaked, nicotine-stained, sequin-jumpsuited guide to fabulous Las Vegas (p.61)! From the sexiest topless swimming pools to the tastiest bottomless buffets, we've created a 48-hour itinerary that will leave you and your buddies with insane memories and, in all probability, a minor arrest record. We met up with Vegas locals—showgirls, casino owners, even a few bleary-eyed degenerate gamblers—to get you a true insider's tour of the hottest tourist-free party spots tucked away in the sinniest city in the country. Enjoy!

But we implore you, dear readers, be careful. Las Vegas is a town that can quickly get the best of you when you're not looking. In planning this issue, more than one horrifying tale was wrested from the dark recesses of my staff's brains. Here's a small sampling of their strange but true Vegas adventures (for privacy's sake, names have been changed—to our former intern Blaine McEvoy).

"The first time I ever visited Sin City, I won \$800 playing blackjack—beginner's luck! Of course, then I went on a complete bender and blacked out. I woke up 12 hours later in my hotel room, fully clothed, a warm beer spilling on my chest, the door wide open, and my wallet completely empty. Did I go out and spend all the cash, or did some dude rip me off and then kindly see me back to my room? I secretly hope it was the latter."—Blaine McEvoy

"For reasons I'd rather not get into, I went to Siegfried & Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat for a full dolphin encounter. I get into the water with the dolphins. The dolphins poo. It gets in my eyes and mouth. I freak out, panicking in my way-

too-tight wet suit, and have to be pulled out by a rescue swimmer. In front of my soon-to-be-former girlfriend."—Blaine McEvoy

"I drunkenly went up to a table full of much younger girls at a casino club and told them I was an editor at *Maxim*, slept with supermodels, and could get all of them into the magazine. They laughed at me. Then it turned out they were friends with someone in the office! I've yet to live it down."—Blaine McEvoy

"I had sex with a stripper. And fell in love!"—Chris Wilson, Deputy Editor

There's Sin City for ya! And speaking of sins, who among us would not kill for a little alone time with cover goddess Megan Fox? You were introduced to Megan on the cover of this magazine a year ago, and she's back with something truly spectacularly hot ("Twenty-First Century Fox," p.54). Prepare to be transformed into a drooling idiot when you lay eyes on this shoot. The lovely Ms. Fox has a fleet of new flicks on the way, including *How to Lose Friends & Alienate People*, which satirizes the New York publishing industry. Megan, how could you?

Want more sin? We set out to explore the lust-filled adventures of the young Hollywood wannabes living the real-life version of the hit show *Entourage* ("To Live, Die, and Party in L.A.," p.94). Is it a matter of art imitating life or vice versa? Either way, these guys are having more fun than most of us.

And we even take a look at the most sinfully horrible teams in college football (p.50). From lame-ass traditions to just plain sucky skills, we call out the worst of the worst. Duke Blue Devils fans, you may want to skip this one.

OK, so what have we learned here? If it is good times and beautiful women you're after, your best bet is to turn the page and start reading. Oh, one final Vegas tip: If you need bail money, our number is unlisted.



James Kaminsky
Editorial Director

Moneymakers

Take these odds to your favorite Vegas bookie and watch the cash roll in.



3:1	Kim Kardashian busting out of her dress on <i>Dancing With the Stars</i>
1:1,000,000	Your buddy not forwarding the sex message you accidentally sent him instead of your girlfriend
4:1	Brett Favre re-retiring
1:1	Brett Favre reconsidering his re-retirement
2:1	You quietly weeping into your neck pillow on the plane ride home from Vegas
3:1	Miley Cyrus being admitted to Promises for "exhaustion"
2:1	You questioning your sexuality after gazing at a Speedo-clad Michael Phelps a few minutes too long
5:1	A Nicole Richie-Joel Madden sex tape being leaked
1:2	A Benji Madden-Joel Madden sex tape being leaked
1:30	Balki and Larry marrying and adopting a wisecracking kid in the new NBC sitcom <i>Perfect Daddies</i>
4:2	You're reading this while sitting on a toilet

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Dead Meat

A doctor says to his patient, "I've got some good news and some bad news."

"I guess I'd better hear the good news first," says the man.

"The good news is that your penis is going to be two inches longer and an inch wider," says the doctor.

"That's great!" says the man. "What's the bad news?"

"It's malignant."

Barassment

Three guys are drinking in a bar when a drunk comes in, staggers up to them, and points at the guy in the middle.

"Your mom's the best lay in town."

AN OLD COUPLE IS
IN CHURCH LISTENING
TO A SERMON WHEN THE WIFE
WHISPERS, "I JUST LET OUT A
SILENT FART. WHAT SHOULD I
DO?" HER HUSBAND WHISPERS
BACK, "WELL, FOR STARTERS
YOU SHOULD
PUT A NEW
BATTERY IN YOUR
HEARING AID."



A MAN GOES INTO A PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE
WEARING NOTHING BUT UNDERWEAR MADE OF SARAN
WRAP. THE PSYCHIATRIST LOOKS AT HIM AND
SAYS, "WELL, I CAN CLEARLY SEE YOUR NUTS."



Everyone expects a fight, but the guy ignores him, and the drunk wanders off.

Ten minutes later the drunk comes back and points at the same guy.

"I just screwed your mom, and it was sweet-e-e-t, dude!"

Again the guy refuses to take the bait, and the drunk wanders off.

Ten minutes later he comes back again.

"Your mom even let me—"

Finally, the guy interrupts: "Go home, Dad. You're drunk!"

Dirty Birdie

A fan seeking a pro golfer's autograph waits for him by the clubhouse after a tournament.

The golfer finally shows up with scratches all over his face.

"Hey, what happened?" asks the fan.

"Ah," says the golfer. "I blew an eagle on the 18th hole."

Shrink Rap

A depressed man decides he needs to go see a psychiatrist. So he drives to the shrink's office, lies down on the couch, and tells the doctor his life story.

"I know exactly what your problem is," the psychiatrist says. "It's a simple matter of low self-esteem."

"Oh," says the man, dejected.

"Don't worry," says the doctor. "It's very common among losers like you."

Gulpin' Grizzly

A bear walks into a bar and says to the bartender, "I would like a Jack and...Coke."

"Why the big pause?"

"I've had them all my life."

Sorry, Grandma

Q: What do old ladies taste like?

A: Depends.

Q:
WHERE DOES VIRGIN
WOOL COME FROM?

A:
UGLY SHEEP.



BEAT THIS CAPTION

"Twenty-fifth
high school reunion,
here I come!"



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TO-BE-DEAF
WINNER EARNS
A DVD HOME
THEATER!

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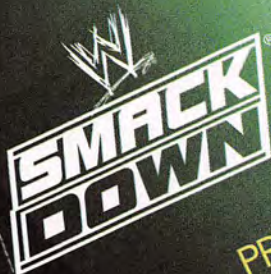
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AIRTIME

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FL ORLANDO	WTVZ	NY ELMA	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
FL PANAMA CITY	WTVZ	NY NEW YORK	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
FL TALLAHASSEE	WTVZ	NY ROCHESTER	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
FL TAMPA	WTVZ	NY SYRACUSE	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
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GA ATLANTA	WTVZ	OH CLEVELAND	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
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GA SAVANNAH	WTVZ	OH TOLEDO	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
GA HONOLULU	WTVZ	OH YOUNGSTOWN	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA CEDAR RAPIDS	WTVZ	OK OKLAHOMA CITY	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA DAVENPORT	WTVZ	OK TULSA	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA DES MOINES	WTVZ	OR EUGENE	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA ROCHESTER	WTVZ	OR MEDFORD	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA SIOUX FALLS	WTVZ	PA HARRISBURG	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IA TWIN FALLS	WTVZ	PA JOHNSTOWN-ALTOONA	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
ID CHAMPAIGN	WTVZ	PA PHILADELPHIA	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
ID CHICAGO	WTVZ	PA PITTSBURGH	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IL PEORIA	WTVZ	PA WILKES BARRE	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IL ROCKFORD	WTVZ	PA PROVIDENCE	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IL ROCKFORD	WTVZ	PA CHARLESTON	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IN EVANSVILLE	WTVZ	RI COLUMBIA	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IN FT. WAYNE	WTVZ	SC GREENVILLE	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IN INDIANAPOLIS	WTVZ	SC MYRTLE BEACH	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IN SOUTH BEND	WTVZ	SC RYDING	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
IN TOPEKA	WTVZ	SD SIOUX FALLS	WWSR-LP	TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
KS WICHITA	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
KY LEXINGTON	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
KY LOUISVILLE	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
KY PADUCAH	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
KY ALEXANDRIA	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
LA BATON ROUGE	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
LA LAFAYETTE	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
LA NEW ORLEANS	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2
LA SHREVEPORT	WTVZ			TX WICHITA FALLS	KXII-DT2



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INCOMING

{ IF IT'S OUT THERE, IT'S IN HERE }

MY FIRST TIME

KATIE CHONACAS

This mouthwatering Midwesterner appears in *eight* movies in the next year—and we're not talking little indie flicks. Next up is this month's *Righteous Kill*, a \$60 million cop drama starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino. So what are her most memorable firsts?

First Scene With De Niro

It was amazing. It was everything I've wanted since I was a kid, right there in my face. And he has this incredible sex appeal. He was in amazing shape, and even just wearing this jogging outfit, he looked really hot.

First Sleazebag Producer

I met a lot of those, but thank God for the Internet—I could sniff them out. This one producer said he was making a big action movie and had me come to his office in a bathing suit

because he said the leads needed to have "good bodies." At the meeting he was like, "I'd like to take you out some weekend and shoot you nude." That just put up a red flag, and I got the hell out of there.

First On-Screen Kiss

It's gonna be in about three weeks. I'm kissing Nicolas Cage for the remake of *Bad Lieutenant*. I definitely have butterflies about it, but I'm gonna give it my all. I want to make it really raw and hot.—Guy Cimbalo



The first 1,000 Verizon Wireless customers to text KATIE to 51945 receive a FREE wallpaper of this picture. (Standard text messaging rates apply.)

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS FORTUNA



Ever vest
Elle McPherson
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The Ronn Scorpion

An eco-friendly supercar? The green geniuses at Ronn Motor Co. are about to roll out this gas- and water-powered 450 hp road beast, which will get 40 mpg with nearly zero CO₂ emissions. For only \$150,000, you too can be environmentally awesome. ronnmotors.com

Zombie Lawn Ornament

Ninety bucks may finally keep those damn neighborhood kids off your lawn—by freaking the hell out of them. Order a garden gnome zombie at design.toscano.com, and keep an eye on your brain. Undead dude looks hungry.



THE COUNTDOWN

Five amazing, cool, and slightly alarming things we're obsessed with in October.



3 Omega the Unknown

Marvel launches a hardcover compilation of this cult comic book series penned by award-winning novelist Jonathan Lethem, author of *Motherless Brooklyn* and *The Fortress of Solitude*. The new *Omega* tome includes all 10 issues of Lethem's series about a silent superhero from another world, and extra art guaranteed to trigger multiple nerdgasm. \$30

AnnaLynne McCord

As 13-year-old girls and creepy guys like us have learned, AnnaLynne puts the "Oh!" in the new *90210*. She plays a rich, sexy student named Naomi. Hey, we just got straight A's in our pants!



2

LasagnaCat.com

This wonderfully weird site features bizarre live-action reenactments of *Garfield* strips. It's enough to make us soil the kitty litter.





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WORLD SERIES OF SEX: HOT MASCOT LOVE

Theory: The more hideous and terrifying a baseball team's mascot, the hotter its baseball wives. We dare you to question this hypothesis after viewing the compelling evidence below.



He told those kids to stay off his lawn for the last time.

Military Blowout Sale! Act Fast!

Bring a pile of cash to the nation's capital and become an instant warlord.

Looking to quell or start an insurgency? Hit an Association of the United States Army's military hardware exposition. Over 400 military defense-based corporations regularly set up booths showcasing the latest innovations in guns, missiles and various death-dealing implements. America, fuck yeah!

We attended AUSA's February event, held in Fort Lauderdale, and mixed in with more than 5,000 defense personnel as well as army reps from all over the world. (Sorry, Iran, you need to have diplomatic relations with the U.S. to attend.) "To my left, we're showcasing the future of the battlefield," announced a booth babe, wearing high heels and holding an M4 assault rifle, upon our arrival. Elsewhere a gung-ho salesman made the pitch for a \$10,000 missile launcher. "Low-profile. Top attack default. Just fire and forget." Don't mind if we do!

Sound fun? The next event is October 6-8 in Washington, D.C. You'll need to show some form of proof that you are linked to the military to get inside, but one insider whispers that it can be "extremely tenuous." So bring an ROTC application and have a blast!—Harmon Leon



#11 IN A SERIES

Bacon Porn

Bow down to the porky power of the Spicy Redneck!

N.Y.C. wienie emporium Crif Dogs has achieved swine-vana with its bacon-blessed standout, the Spicy Redneck. This miracle on a bun is a deep-fried dog swaddled in our favorite magical meat and smothered with chili, jalapeños, and coleslaw. It's a triumph of hot and cold, greasy and salty, maybe even good and evil. Wash it down with a \$2 PBR at the counter and you may never devour an unadorned dog again.



Spicy Redneck, we want you inside us.

BIG NUMBER

12,000

Laptops U.S. airports lose up to in a week. That's 624,000 a year, according to the calculator on our soon-to-be-lost iBook.

Johan Edfors

Golf



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LIGHTEN UP

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Keep your game as smart as your style. Look better. Play better.

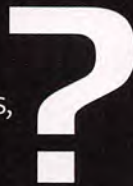


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ASK MAXIM

Murderous twins, dwindling oil, sex-starved chickens, and why hair turns gray. Don't forget to leave a note before you jump out the nearest window!



Their tickle fights were epic.

IF ONE CONJOINED TWIN MURDERS SOMEONE AND IS FOUND GUILTY, DO BOTH TWINS GO TO JAIL?

Mike Thompson, Mount Laurel, NJ

Strangely, Yale law professor Dan Kahan says our Founding Fathers already have that screwy scenario covered. Kahan refers us to the good ol' Constitution: "The Fifth Amendment clearly implies that penalties separating one or more persons 'limb' from 'limb' are constitutional if the procedural guarantees are satisfied. As long as they are given due process, the Constitution legally allows for the medical separation of the guilty twin." What if there's a risk of death? Our man from Yale declares that the surgery is still constitutionally permissible and therefore completely legal. "To my knowledge, no case like this has ever existed, but that's what's great about the framers of our Constitution: They had the wisdom and foresight to anticipate exactly this kind of situation." Hey, that James Madison was one weird dude!



"Who the hell left the iron on?"



Enjoys watching hobbits bathe.

WHERE'S THE U.S. OIL RESERVE AND HOW LONG WOULD IT LAST IN AN EMERGENCY?

John Vigil, Denver, CO

We're the United States of Freaking Awesome, John. We don't have one oil reserve—we have four! The Strategic Petroleum Reserve's depositories are all along the Gulf Coast: two in Louisiana and two in Texas. The SPR is tapped only if there's an interruption in oil imports (the last time was during Hurricane Katrina, when offshore rigs got knocked off-line). There are 706.3 million barrels in the SPR, but in May Congress halted pouring more black gold into our Texas-tea bank. "Legislation suspends filling the SPR through the end of the year, so long as the price of oil remains above \$75 per barrel," says Angela Hill, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Energy. That means our current inventory will provide for 58 oil-filled days, barring a Hanukkah-like miracle. Shabbat shalom, power grid!

ARE THE CHICKEN EGGS WE EAT FOR BREAKFAST FERTILIZED?

Stephen Ruvell, Jackson Hole, WY

Chickens, like women, produce eggs without male involvement; it's only when hens need to birth chicks that coop sex becomes necessary. A large poultry farm may house up to one million hens crowded into cages, where they have a constant supply of water and food to maintain egg-laying conditions. Each bird drops an egg roughly every 26 hours for four to six days with a day of rest before the next cycle. Throwing hen-house orgies is needless, as the USDA says there is no nutritional difference between fertilized and unfertilized eggs. So feel free to pour extra syrup on your sausage, egg, and cheese McGriddles. You've earned it!



MY HAIR IS TURNING GRAY, AND IT'S A DIFFERENT TEXTURE. WHAT GIVES?

Darren Malorano, Eagletown, OK

Picture a follicle of hair as a ladder made of silky smooth pigment cells acting as rungs. Are you picturing that? Good! As you age, those rungs (like your career goals, your sex life, and the love of your children) decay and die, losing the melanin that gave your hair its color. Those cells also give the follicle its structure, so as the melanin departs, your hair becomes coarser than a sandpaper hand job. Yes, there are ways to slow the process. Dr. Yael Halaas, a New York City facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, says free radicals (and stress) activate our graying genes early. "Free radicals create cellular degeneration, and antioxidants and diet can help repair the damage." That means ingesting plenty of Omega 3 fatty acids and snacking on womanly fare between Slim Jim binges.

hard to resist.

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DIAMONDS
FOR MEN

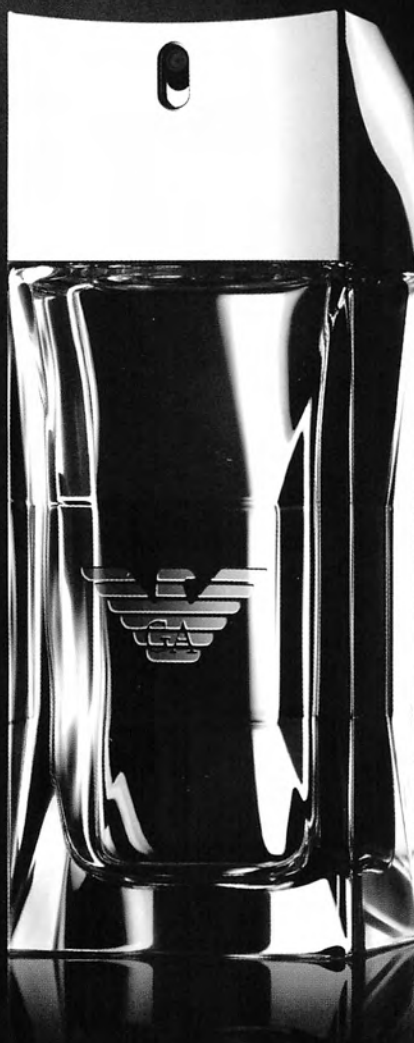


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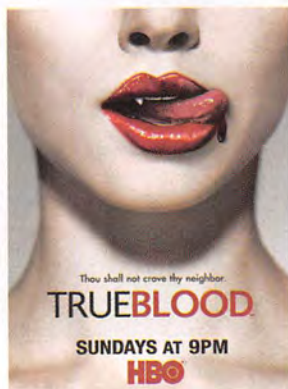
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Ferrari Challenge

Trofeo **PIRELLI**

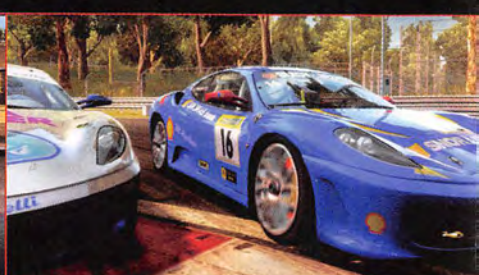


"Leaves the competition standing"

- Official PlayStation Magazine UK

"...the most impressive graphics, intuitive
gameplay, and advanced AI of any racing title."

- Game Informer

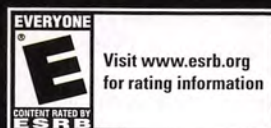


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RATED

{YOUR ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT AUTHORITY}



And Russell Crowe's giant head ruled the desert.

BODY SHOTS

Legendary director Ridley Scott and his favorite partner in crime, Russell Crowe, pull in Leonardo DiCaprio for the thriller *Body of Lies*.

After working together on *Gladiator*, *A Good Year*, and *American Gangster*, Russell Crowe and Ridley Scott are like an old married couple. "We do bicker...frequently," Scott laughs. "It creates a healthy environment and good fun, actually. It has to be fun, because it's damn hard work!"

Audiences will see if good fun leads to a good movie in *Body of Lies*, the twisty story of a shady CIA boss (Crowe) and an operative (Leonardo DiCaprio) sent to Jordan to track down a high-ranking terrorist. But the mission isn't what counts here; instead, the focus is on the tenuous alliance between two men operating outside, around, and underneath the law. "It's about deceiving everyone and trusting

no one to get the job done," Scott explains. "Sounds negative, but it's very familiar today, isn't it?" The result is a throwback to '70s political thrillers like *3 Days of the Condor*.

With its unvarnished look at American foreign policy (Dubai actually denied permission to film there because the movie was too political), *Body of Lies* promises to draw plenty of ire. "People say, 'God, you're cynical,'" Scott says. "No, I'm accurate." Clearly, he isn't one to shy away from controversy—or hard work. He's fully booked with multiple flicks unspooling over the next five years. Wouldn't you think a 70-year-old would want a vacation? "To do what? Fish? And I cannot stand the beach for more than an hour. I start twiddling my thumbs wondering how I'm going to get through lunchtime."—Mike Olson

Life Partners

Scott and Crowe aren't the first movie duo to be attached at the hip.



MARTIN SCORSESE & ROBERT DE NIRO

Collaborations: 8 Heck, we're shocked Marty didn't have De Niro play tambourine in that Rolling Stones documentary. **Relationship:** Get a room!



TIM BURTON & JOHNNY DEPP

Collaborations: 6 Considering all the creepy characters they've put on-screen, from Edward Scissorhands to Sweeney Todd, these guys are on each other like black eyeliner. **Relationship:** See other people.



JOHN HUGHES & ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL

Collaborations: 3 Hughes used the gangly teen in *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, and *Weird Science*; then, bam, it was over. **Relationship:** He's just not that into you.



Rocking Men's Wearhouse's finest

THE DORK KNIGHT

My Best Friend's Girl's Jason Biggs describes playing a lovable loser.

From his star-making turn as a pastry humper in *American Pie* to roles in *Saving Silverman* and *Loser*, Jason Biggs has playing an affable doofus down pat. He maintains the persona with his latest flick, *My Best Friend's Girl*. How does Jason navigate the thin line between sympathetic funnyman and unbearable schmuck?

Be Naturally Likable

"An actor needs to have likability, a quality that keeps people rooting for you. My character in *My Best Friend's Girl* is aggressive—I mean, he's not a rapist—but I play him as a good guy."

Channel Cusack

"John Cusack in *Say Anything* is the best example of a hopeless romantic. You know, a nice, clean-cut fellow you can't help but like."

Push the Envelope

"For a character to be relatable, you need to go for it 1,000 percent. In this movie I shave my eyebrows. You can't worry about how you look."

Know When to Say When

"Did I really shave off my brows? No. I was like, 'Fuck this. They can CGI a shaved eyebrow!'"

My Best Friend's Girl opens everywhere September 19.

Film Checkup

Sifting through the cinematic heap.



Miracle at St. Anna

Spike Lee directs the story of an all-black WWII regiment (yay!) that protects an artifact and battles Germans (boo!) in an Italian village.

Story of African-American heroes



Story of Caucasian losers

In Grim Reaper's Netflix queue

Based on a bestseller

Men should wear helmets

Men should wear condoms

OUR TAKE



If Lee takes liberties with history, we don't mind. Any inaccuracies will only lead to the inevitable Clint Eastwood vs. Spike Grouch-off, round two!



Choke

Adapted from *Fight Club* author Chuck Palahniuk's novel, *Choke* follows Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell) as he cons good Samaritans.



Taking advantage of sex addict support groups for his physical urges, Victor may be the slimiest character of the decade. But can scumbaggery carry a whole flick?



Ghost Town

Ricky Gervais is a dentist who, after dying for seven minutes on the operating table, sees dead people—and all of them want a favor.



Gervais' trademark brand of painful, self-deprecating comedy shines as he skillfully dances between a Greg Kinnear-Téa Leoni paranormal romance.



The Express

Up-and-comer Rob Brown is college pigskin legend Ernie Davis, a record-breaking running back whose career was cut short by cancer.



We're all for a schmaltzy football movie (*Rudy* gives us the vapors) as long as it's full of hot man-on-man action. We mean, like, on the gridiron. Uh...want a beer?

We Four Kings

Kings of Leon explore their dark side.

➔ They've got plenty of fans in the States, but Southern alt-rockers Kings of Leon are bona fide rock gods in Europe. Maybe that's why on their fourth album, *Only by the Night*, they wail like a band with something to lose. To explain that vibe, drummer Nathan Followill laughs and says his brother, singer-lyricist Caleb,

"did have help from Vicodin and wine." In the slow-building "Revelry," "I get lost in the light so high" is a lament. The tense "Be Somebody" opens up into a hopeful chorus. By the last note you'll wonder if the band can stay under the radar stateside. Nathan muses, "We like to just flirt with the idea of greatness."—Nick Catucci



On their rider? Lots of Pantene.

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“
MY HEARSE DEFINITELY
TRANSFORMS
INTO AN AUTOBOT.
”

SHIA LABEOUF

The *Eagle Eye* star and luckiest guy on the planet breaks down his final moments.

SO HOW DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Without any fear.

YOUR NEW THRILLER, *EAGLE EYE*, SEEMS COMPLETELY ACTION-PACKED. WERE THERE ANY NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES WHILE SHOOTING?

The action is over the top. At one point I jumped out of a Porsche attached to a crane in midair. Luckily, someone put an air bag under me.

WHICH OF YOUR MOVIES PLAYS OVER AND OVER IN HEAVEN?

A *Guide to Recognizing Your Saints*, no doubt.

WHICH ONE PLAYS OVER AND OVER IN HELL?

Dumb and Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd.

WAS THERE ANYONE ON EARTH YOU EVER WANTED TO PUNCH IN THE FACE?

Unfortunately, that list is endless.

DOES YOUR HEARSE TRANSFORM INTO A DECEPTICON OR AN AUTOBOT?

It definitely transforms into an Autobot. Optimus Prime *really* knows how to beat traffic on the freeways, you know?

WHILE ALIVE, WHAT DID YOU SPEND THE MOST MONEY ON?

That's easy—lawyers and gas.

WHAT BOOK DO YOU REGRET NOT FINISHING?

Quitting Smoking for Dummies.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU THE MOST PROUD OF?

That Steven Spielberg takes my calls.

WHAT'S THE WILDEST THING YOU EVER DID WHILE YOU WERE ALIVE?

I hung out with NHL player Sean Avery for a

couple of days in New York City. Those were two pretty wild days.

WHO DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO SLEEP WITH?

Diane Sawyer. She just does it for me.

WHEN WERE YOU HAPPIEST?

Right now, at this very moment. I'm living the dream.

WHO'S GOING TO BE AT YOUR FUNERAL?

I have no idea—I won't be there to handle the guest list.

YOU'RE RUMORED TO BE INHERITING THE INDIANA JONES FRANCHISE. ONCE YOU'RE GONE, TO WHOM WILL YOU BEQUEATH THE ROLE?

Harrison Ford is Indiana Jones. Period.

Eagle Eye arrives in theaters everywhere September 26.

YOU CHEWS.

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AND IS PREFERRED OVER TRIDENT® WATERMELON TWIST.®**



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WE LIKE TO WATCH

Train your eyes on our TV preview and get hooked into the talking cars, '70s cops, and human guinea pigs that will be taking over your flat-screen this fall.

WORTH A PEEK

LIFE ON MARS

Premieres: October 9, ABC
In the original hit British version of this sci-fi police drama, a car accident victim finds himself back in the year 1973 wondering whether he's traveled through time or lost his mind. The American version takes place in N.Y.C. and stars Jason O'Mara as the stunned detective. **Our take:** Suspend disbelief and any nagging "What the eff is going on?" questions and just roll with this action-packed early-'70s buddy-cop throwback.



They blew the entire label budget on that one shirt.

TESTEES

Premieres: October 9, FX
Former *South Park* writer Kenny Hotz has created a show that promises the same twisted sensibility of FX's other strangely watchable sitcom, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. The absurdity revolves around roommates who earn their keep as scientific test subjects. **Our take:** Human guinea pigs waiting for the negative side effects to kick in? Solid premise, perfect title.

KNIGHT RIDER

Premieres: September 24, NBC
Two decades after David Hasselhoff made *Knight Rider* an international phenomenon, the reboot picks up with the ex-Army Ranger/estranged son of Michael Knight solving crimes with his talking car, KITT, voiced by Val Kilmer. **Our take:** Gearheads will love the tricked-out ride, and who doesn't dig a gorgeous leading girl (Deanna Russo). If only the Hoff would show up drunk and eating a cheeseburger, we'd predict Emmy gold.



MUST-WATCH

"Help! It's that dude from Dawson's Creek!"

FRINGE

Premieres: September 9, Fox **Stars:** Joshua Jackson, Anna Torv
In typical J.J. Abrams fashion (*Lost*, *Alias*), *Fringe* starts off with a bang: A plane flies into a storm, and the passengers melt into goo-covered skeletons. What the hell happened? It's up to FBI agent Torv, genius Jackson, and an unhinged scientist to find out. "Our motivation is scaring people," says executive producer Alex Kurtzman. "Viewers have to think what they saw is possible." Toward that goal, unlike *X-Files* (to which the show is being compared), *Fringe* won't feature any little green men, and you can miss an episode and not be screwed. But don't fear, conspiracy buffs. "It may or may not be someone experimenting on our world," teases fellow executive producer Roberto Orci. Cue ominous music.—*Alison Prato*

GREGG DELMAN (PHOTOGRAPHY); ERIC HEINTZ (PHOTO-ILLUSTRATION)



MUST-FLEE TV

• SECRET MILLIONAIRE (FOX)

Rich people live undercover as poor people and discover that, deep down, we all want to star on crappy reality TV.

• THE EX LIST (CBS)

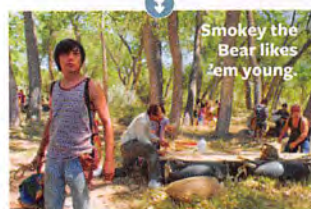
A woman unlucky at love searches for Mr. Right. A chick complaining about guys for 30 minutes? Awesome!

WORST WEEK

Premieres: September 22, CBS
Following in the fat-man-with-hottie footsteps of inexplicably long-running sitcoms like *According to Jim*, Sam Briggs (Kyle Bornheimer) is an oafish everyman sleeping with an out-of-his-league chick. As the title suggests, he also has a knack for stumbling into awkward situations, like showing up at his girlfriend's parents' house in a diaper and peeing on dinner.
Our take: Could be fun, but will the wee-wee jokes become irksome after a few really bad weeks?

CRASH

Premieres: October 17, Starz
After it won Best Picture, Screenplay, and Film Editing at the 2005 Oscars, it was only a matter of time before somebody decided to turn the overrated melodrama about



race relations into a TV series.

Our take: We may tune in just to see how onetime badass Dennis Hopper, as rogue record producer Ben Cendars, heads up a diverse group of Los Angeles residents.

KATH AND KIM

Premieres: October 9, NBC
Based on an Aussie sitcom, Selma Blair plays a self-absorbed, self-professed trophy wife who moves back in with her quirky, divorced mother (Molly Shannon).
Our take: Don't be put off by the chickalicious subject matter. The Down Under version is obscene, ridiculous, and very funny. Just hope Shannon doesn't bust out any Mary Katherine Gallagher moves.

MY OWN WORST ENEMY

Premieres: October 13, NBC
Christian Slater plays a suburban family man with a gorgeous wife, a couple of kids, and a secret—he shares his body with Edward Albricht, a lethal killing machine, in this *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* rehash.
Our take: We loved Slater as a villain in *Heathers*, but will the first person he murders please be whoever's responsible for every movie he's done since *Very Bad Things*?



LITTLE BRITAIN USA

Premieres: September 28, HBO **Stars:** Matt Lucas, David Walliams
Normally we'd skip watching a man shave another man's pubes. But when said shaving is performed on HBO's latest comedy show, we'll make an exception. Based on the U.K.'s massively popular sketch series, *Little Britain USA* stars mad men Matt Lucas (right) and David Walliams. While many skits feature characters from the British series, a whole new set of oddballs is on the way. This means fans can expect not only familiar freaks like Harvey, a grown man who enjoys breast feeding ("We like it when the audience shrieks in horror," admits Walliams), but also new, uniquely American characters like Mark and Tom. They're a pair of homophobic gym buddies who fail to notice their own gay tendencies—like the aforementioned pubic hair shaving. Whether Lucas and Walliams are portraying British or American characters makes little difference; their crazy comedy has universal appeal. "We share a lot more than we did 25 years ago," Lucas says. "I think it's due to the Internet." Whatever the reason, viewers on this side of the pond should brace for some bloody bizarre laughs.—Rob Blatt

HAPPY RETURNS CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER WHERE YOUR FAVORITE SHOWS LEFT OFF? LET US REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.

	HEROES	30 ROCK	THE OFFICE	HOUSE	COPS
LAST SEASON'S BURNING QUESTION	Is Nathan Petrelli really dead?	Will Liz actually adopt a baby?	When will Jim propose to Pam?	Will Wilson forgive House for Amber's death?	Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?
BUT ALL WE REALLY CARE ABOUT	Bring on the villains!	When can we play Tracy's porno video game?	Dwight's getting some ass again.	How do we get a physical from Olivia Wilde?	Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?
OUR FAVORITE RUMOR	Superhot, badass "future Claire" (Hayden Panettiere).	An Oprah cameo.	The Office spin-off isn't a spin-off, but it does star Amy Poehler.	A new character steals Cuddy out from under House.	All suspects are presumed innocent...
OUR BIGGEST FEAR	More illegal-alien heroes with anger-management issues.	An Oprah cameo in Tracy's porno video game.	Will they? Won't they? Who cares?	A Grey's Anatomy crossover episode.	Seeing Dad busted in a meth buy...again.

• 90210 (THE CW)

The original was so bad it was good. The remake is worse. That's bad.

• KINGS (NBC)

An update of the biblical story of King David? We think we'll be rooting for Goliath.

• OUTSIDERS' INN (CMT)

Maureen McCormick, Bobby Brown, and Carnie Wilson run a bed and breakfast. No, seriously.

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CIARA

The R&B superstar is taking fans on a *Fantasy Ride*.

Four years ago an 18-year-old from Atlanta with a pretty face and a smooth, infectious sound made an indelible first impression on the music world. Her debut album went triple platinum; she scored four Grammy nominations; and an entire nation couldn't get the "1, 2 Step" out of its collective head. Now, with her third album, Ciara has evolved from teen sensation to full-fledged R&B goddess. "Every year you grow and change," she says. "Or maybe I was just learning about myself as a woman."

Her latest effort, *Fantasy Ride*, is an audible reflection of everything she's learned. Like its name suggests, the album is a roller coaster through the sounds of the ever-evolving ATL music scene. She explains: "This isn't a typical crunk record, with the 'hood element. It's got that, but there's more to it." By working with hot young local producers like Ne-Yo, the-Dream, and T-Pain, as well as old-timers like Danja and Tricky Stewart, Ciara has allowed her signature sound to move to the next level. "Music is changing, and so you have to go for something different."

Does "different" also mean expanding into other areas of entertainment? In a world where Martha, Oprah, and Tyra have one-word names that signify vast empires, could Ciara be next? "Well, for now I'm just trying to do the best I can and constantly push myself," she says. "But you know what? The sky's the limit!"

—Savas Abadsidis

Now jump up and down. Whoops! We didn't say Simon says!

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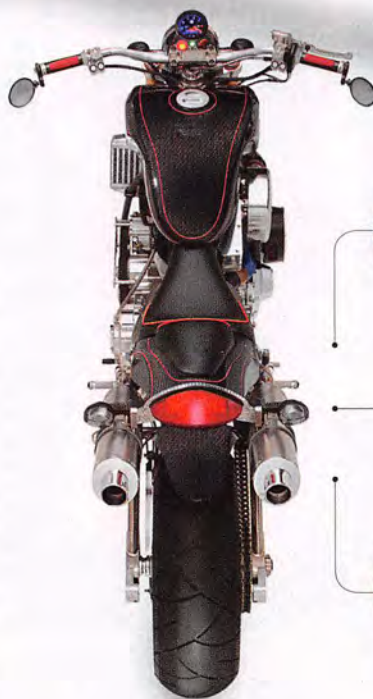
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WHEELS OF FORTUNE

Say hello to the ultimate street bike. Then say bye to \$230K.

➡ Hedge fund still hammering? Time to celebrate by hopping on Denver-based Ecosse Moto Works' Titanium Series Supercharged Edition. For the price of a Lamborghini Gallardo (plus or minus a month's worth of manicures), this sweet \$230,000 superbike delivers a hand-built titanium frame, a supercharged billet aluminum engine, and enough bespoke details to reduce a billionaire to tears. Tossed into the high-tech mix of carbon fiber and aerospace aluminum are old-school touches like hand-painted pinstriping and metal surfaces polished to a velvety sheen. But forget all the museum-worthy minutiae; this baby's got the subtlety of a Bunker Buster, and the power to cause about as much damage. —Basem Wasef



The Power Plant

The bike's heart is a 2,150 cc fuel-injected, hand-assembled engine. A supercharger squeezes more than 200 hp and 210 lb.-ft. of torque from the V-twin, which is mated to a transmission cut from solid billet. You know the guys who buy motorcycles to save gas money? This one ain't on their shopping list.

Hot Seat

They may look like merciless spine benders, but Ecosse's are actually designed for comfort: gel-filled seats, adjustable foot controls, and an upright seating position make riding the Titanium Series more like sitting on a La-Z-Boy than hunching over a rice burner. But one crack of the throttle will quickly remind you that death is just a 180 mph hairpin turn away.

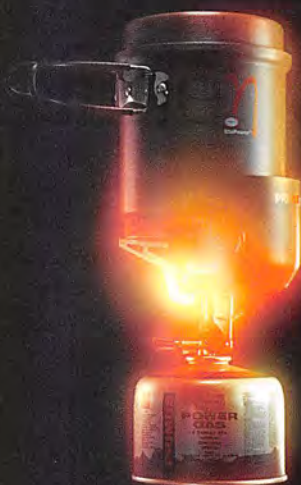
Devil's Details

Look closely at most superbikes and you'll find more plastic parts than you see on the *Deal or No Deal* girls. Not this one. Peep the machined, bezel-like notches in the headlight ring and exhaust hanger. The intricate trellis frame alone takes two welders 30 days to construct. Hey, pick up the pace, guys!



★ The Perfect Pitch

At 30.5 square feet, the Marmot Aura Tent sleeps two and sits four comfortably yet weighs barely four pounds. The secret? Smartly angled, offset DAC aluminum poles—15 percent lighter than traditional ones—that raise the roof, Arsenio style, to increase head space. And a mesh canopy lets you soak up the sun while your significant other hunts and gathers. **\$299**, marmot.com



★ The Porta-Pyro

Thanks to dual-purpose elements and a titanium makeup, the Primus EtaExpress stove is just six inches tall and weighs less than a pound. The one-liter pot, which mounts onto almost any fuel cartridge, stores all the components, and the lid also serves as a frying pan. Who wants a Moons Over My Hammy? **\$90**, primuscamping.com

PACKING HEAT

Featherweight camp gear for climbing high without breaking your back.



★ The Fold-up Lamp

This collapsible light will take up less space (and weigh less) in your pack than a warm can of High Life—and, unless you're really hard up, will come in handier. A three-watt LED bulb runs on four AA batteries and glows enough to light a four-man tent; it's also dimmable, so you can set the mood for you and your woodland friends. **\$50**, bdl.com



★ The Air Chair

After a hard day's hike in Yellowstone Park, your aching glutes deserve the Big Agnes Cyclone SL Chair. Its six ounces of ripstop fabric and aluminum tent-pole stays pack down to nothing but provide solid support and, paired with an inflatable mattress, form a veritable backwoods Barcalounger. Minus the flat-screen HDTV and middle-age ennui. Try to leave those at home. **\$40**, bigagnes.com



★ The Stuffable Sack

Like the cast of *Circus Sluts 4*, the Sierra Designs Arrow Rock 45 is ultra-flexible. It works in a range of temps, since baffled dividers distribute the down in rows, letting you shift the fluff to the top in cold weather or to the sides in warmer climes. **\$179–\$199**, sierradesigns.com



★ The Pivoting Pack

The watertight North Face Primero 60 backpack lightens your load using an innovative pivoting frame that suspends gear and counters your moves instead of clinging to your back like a sweaty monkey or a failing relationship. Plus, the four-pound, 10-ounce pack's 3,650 cubic inches is enough room for the essentials, like the paycheck's worth of canned ham you bought in Jersey. **\$269**, thenorthface.com—Steve Mazzucchi



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WATCH THE RIGHT THING

Which flat-screen HDTV is right for your living room? *Miracle at St. Anna* director Spike Lee tests the best.



1 CINEPHILE

Pioneer Elite Kuro HDTV

PRO-111FD 50-inch plasma \$5,000

The lowdown: Home theater obsessives swear by Pioneer's best sets, which for years have produced deeper blacks than anybody else's in the game. Well, hold your Criterion Collection—the new '08 models make darks five times darker. An "optimum mode" uses light and sound sensors to automatically calibrate the brightness level and ambient light color in your porno lair, er, home theater. **Spike's take:** "It's not a scientific test, but obviously this set is gorgeous. Everybody knows about Pioneer Kuros. I have two of 'em in my offices."

RATING ●●●●●

2 CLUTTER KILLER

Mitsubishi LT-46149 46-inch

LCD \$3,299

The lowdown: You've traded your bulky boob tube for a flush flat-screen. But you've still got a rat's nest of wires and speakers sticking out like a sore thumb. Mitsu solves the problem by packing a loud 5.1 surround system into a 16-speaker projector mounted under the TV; it detects your room's acoustic signature and proceeds to blow your mind.

Spike's take: "You don't want bulky speakers, so I see where they're going. And it sounds incredible. But compared to the others, motion in Blu-ray video is blurry. Mitsubishi, I expected better!"

RATING ●●●●○

3 PRICE CHOPPER

Vizio VP505XVT 50-inch

plasma \$1,699

The lowdown: Vizio peddles cheap HDTVs by the jillions at Wal-Mart; our nation's economy depends on it. With their new XVT line, the brand goes upmarket by producing sets with specs that rival Sony's high-end panels—and cost a few benjamins less. A "Hollywood Quality Video" chip supposedly renders colors truer and reduces noise.

Spike's take: "The blacks are deep, but the brights aren't quite as bright as the others"—it looks a little dim. I know everybody can't spend five grand, though. If you don't got the dough—Vizio!"

RATING ●●●●○

4 NO BALONEY

Sony Bravia KDL-46Z4100

46-inch LCD \$2,799

The lowdown: Sports nuts and cinephiles tend to knock LCD screens, since motion tends to blur more than on a plasma. But Sony's new 1080p Bravia LCD may win them over: Its 120Hz technology doubles video frame rates and reduces motion blur. Bummer if you wanna see trails coming off a soccer ball.

Spike's take: "The Sony's no baloney! To my naked eyeball, I can't tell much difference at all between this and the most expensive set [the Pioneer]. The whites are whiter, the darks are dark, and the tones are spot-on. I'm buying this one!"

RATING ●●●●●

MUST-SEE IN HD

"Big, epic visuals look great on Blu-ray," says Lee. Here are his three top disc picks for showing off your home theater in full high-def glory.



A Clockwork Orange



Blade Runner



2001: A Space Odyssey



by Christian Audigier

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WHAT DOES FOOTBALL MEAN TO YOU?

With millions of fans tuning in to pro football every week, it would be easy to generalize viewers as an anonymous mass of couch potatoes. But even among rival fans, the rituals are both familiar and quirky. We talked to two of them and discovered that even more than a win, they both crave the perfect game-watching experience.

**I YELL OUT MY OWN NAME
WHEN SOMEONE
MAKES A GOOD PLAY.**

**I PUT MY FRIENDS
ON THE MAILING LISTS
OF RIVAL TEAMS.**

GREG, NEW YORK

AGE > 25

OCCUPATION >

Financial analyst

PASSION >

New York Giants



**THE
FANS**



PETE, BOSTON

AGE > 29

OCCUPATION >

Med student

PASSION >

New England Patriots

Do you have any pre-game rituals?

GREG > I wear a home jersey when the team is in New York and an away jersey when they're traveling. It's just a mental thing for me.

PETE > I always start out the game with a sandwich in hand.

How do team rivalries among your friends play out?

GREG > Whenever I see gossip or news online about the other team's quarterback, I make sure to send it to fans of that team. I tend to trash-talk most before the game.

PETE > I put my friends on the mailing lists of rival teams.

What's your Sunday game routine—do you sit on the couch for four hours straight or pause and rewind, taking lots of breaks?

GREG > I prefer watching alone so I can concentrate, pause and rewind as necessary. As it gets close to the end of the season, my antics increase. I yell out my own name when someone makes a good play. Not sure why. During the game, I text my friends to discuss the action.

PETE > I go to a friend's house—the one with the biggest TV—before the early game and camp out through the late game. We pretty much only get up for bathroom breaks and beer runs.

How does watching a game in HD compare to watching it in standard definition?

GREG > Even the sound seems more alive on HD. You get the whole experience, the bird's-eye view and the players' view; it's so real it's almost unreal.

PETE > You can't even compare it. I like seeing the dirt come up from the cleats. The uniform colors are so much more vibrant in HD. I'm gunning for my own Samsung plasma TV.

If you could put together your ideal home-viewing experience, what would it include?

GREG > Samsung HDTV, a surround-sound speaker setup, food, beer.

PETE > Three things—continuous food, girls, HDTV.



NFL PLAYERS

SAMSUNG

JOHNNY DRAMA OVERDRIVE

Entourage's Kevin Dillon shows us his best starlet-chasing machine.

➔ **YOU JUST REBUILT JAMES DEAN'S CLASSIC PORSCHE SPYDER. OUT OF ALL THE ICONIC CARS IN THE WORLD, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT ONE?**

I'm not a psychotic James Dean fan or anything, but he was a great actor, and I love that car. It has all these great details—the red leather seats, the *LITTLE BASTARD* stenciled on the back. Driving it is like being on a motorcycle.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN INTO SPORTS CARS?

Always. I've had a bunch of muscle cars. My real baby is my '69 Firebird. That car is pretty.

AS A TEENAGER, WHAT DID YOU DRIVE?

I did everything on a bike. I had a little 50 cc Honda street bike, then a KZ550, then a Ninja 1000, then a lowrider Harley. My brother Paul let me drive his Audi Fox, but I banged it up. Man, I destroyed that car.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I wasn't paying attention, the roads were wet, and I crashed it. He was not happy.

ANY OTHER ACCIDENTS?

I've gone down on my bikes a few times, but it's never been too nasty—I just scraped up my arms and stuff. Thank God I never made contact with a car, but I've had the tires slide out from me. That's no fun. It takes a couple of good accidents to get you driving a little safer.

“
**DRIVING THIS CAR IS LIKE
BEING ON A MOTORCYCLE.**
”

WHAT'S THE COOLEST CAR YOU'VE DRIVEN ON *ENTOURAGE*?

I love that old Lincoln convertible with the suicide doors. I also got a huge kick out of driving the Aston Martin DB9 because it's so fast.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSONAL SPEED RECORD?

I'm not a speed demon, but I'd say 130 mph.

HAVE YOU EVER USED YOUR CELEBRITY TO GET OUT OF A TICKET?

All the time. Back in the day I did a few episodes of *NYPD Blue*, and cops loved that show. They'd freak out. "You're that dude from *NYPD Blue*!"

ANY TIPS ON HAVING SEX IN A CAR?

Get a convertible. It's much easier.—*Alison Prato*

Kevin Dillon plays Johnny "Drama" Chase on *Entourage*, which airs on HBO on Sundays at 10 P.M.





NFL PLAYERS

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We cannot stress enough the importance of child window guards.

High Infidelity

Watch out, guy. You're not the only one with a wandering eye.

For years there's been a rumor floating around that women don't cheat as much as men. If you believe that, have fun looking for Bigfoot and working on your "9/11 was a government conspiracy" manifesto. The truth is, girls are not quite as innocent as we may seem.

Take it from a reformed female philanderer who spent her entire college career betraying one boyfriend after another. Following a karmic post-college decade spent dateless and alone, I cleaned up my act, but not before I learned firsthand the freaky appeal and downsides of illicit hookups. And I'm not alone: These days women are increasingly willing to venture outside their relationships for sex. In fact, in a 2007 MSNBC.com/iVillage survey of more than 70,000 adults, 50 percent—that's

men and women—admitted to being unfaithful at some point in their lives.

According to Judy Kuriansky, clinical psychologist and author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to a Healthy Relationship*, this uptick in female infidelity makes sense: "We're not dealing with the 'electrician coming to the house' scenario anymore. Women are more financially independent, so they have more opportunities to meet people at work and outside the home." Plus, we're exposed to a 24-hour news cycle that keeps us abreast of rampant cheating by celebrities and politicians—hello, Mr. Edwards!—which makes betraying you seem, if not expected, then at least somewhat normal.

Hillary*, 27, who works for a nonprofit, claims to have cheated on every partner she's ever had: "My boyfriend thinks I'm this good girl. Most men just don't assume women are capable of

what we're capable of." Not every girl's behavior is this extreme, of course. But it's time you found out exactly what we're doing, why we're doing it, and what could be in it for you.

Why We Stray

Conventional wisdom says men cheat to affirm their virility and satiate their libidos, while women are unfaithful because they crave romance and feel neglected. That may be true occasionally, but women's sexual appetites can be just as strong as yours. So, sometimes, we cheat for the same reason Brett Favre unretires every year: because we can. Says Rebecca, a 32-year-old New York-based editor who betrayed her man on a recent work trip to L.A.: "I never would have done it in New York, but everything feels sort of surreal when you're away from home—like no one's going to know about it."

Unlike guys, many women also use infidelity as a form of revenge. Sara, a 31-year-old bartender, had a one-night fling because she didn't like the way her boyfriend reacted to her attempt to spice up their sex life. "I started taking pole-dancing classes and got fully waxed, and he told me it was trashy," she recalls. "So I thought, Fuck him, I'm going to find someone who appreciates this. I invited over my ex. Two bottles of wine and one lap dance later, we were screwing on the couch. Frankly, it felt great. My ex made me feel sexy, not embarrassed."

In fact, if a girl feels really unhappy in a relationship, she may even start an affair as a way out. "My boyfriend kept pressuring me to marry him, and I didn't want to," says Carine, a 27-year-old law student. "The more we fought about it, the more I escalated a flirtation with a classmate. Finally, late one night, after a round of 'strip-studying,' we had sex on a deserted floor of the school library. When I told my boyfriend, he broke up with me on the spot. I felt guilty but also, truthfully, kind of relieved."

How We Pull It Off

So why haven't you been wise to women's cheating ways before now? For one thing, it's quite possible that we're uniquely suited to it. There are a few decidedly feminine qualities—our intense attention to detail, the way we consider a given situation from every angle—that make us pretty good at the game of deception. "Women are better at covering their tracks than men," says Ian Kerner, Ph.D., sex therapist and author of *She Comes First*. "They really think about what a suspicious guy would look for."

We also employ many of the same tactics that men have used on us for years, such as the time-honored "accuse you just as you accuse me" approach. When Chelsea, a 28-year-old boutique owner, went to a crowded bar ➤

with her boyfriend and “ended up running into” the guy she liked (translation: she knew he’d be there), she took off with her crush for an hour. “He lived upstairs, so we headed to his apartment, taking each other’s clothes off in the stairwell on the way up,” she says. “It was extra dirty knowing my boyfriend was just two floors away.” When she returned to the bar and her boyfriend asked where she’d been, Chelsea turned the tables. “I said, ‘I don’t know what you’re talking about. I’ve been looking for you everywhere. Where the hell have you been?’”

Of course, we don’t fool you every time. Gwen, 30, knew she was busted when her boyfriend spied an enormous scratch she’d gotten during a drunken hookup the night before. “I was fucking this guy standing up in his bathroom, and I scraped my back against the towel rack,” she recalls. Her weak excuse—that there’d been “a whole lot of crap” on top of her bed when she passed out on it—didn’t pass muster with her furious (and soon-to-be former) guy.

Degrees of Transgression

Men define cheating simply: sex with someone who’s not their girlfriend. But for women the definition can be a bit more complicated. (Big surprise!) When Meredith, a 29-year-old teacher, found herself exchanging long, highly personal e-mails with a guy she’d met once who lived across the country, she rationalized her behavior. “I told myself it wasn’t wrong, because if anyone asked, ‘Are you cheating?’ I could answer, ‘No,’” she explains. “But the fact is, I completely disconnected from my boyfriend as soon as I started e-mailing with this guy. It was very intimate, even though it wasn’t physical.”

Some girls believe cheating is more forgivable (and not even “technically” cheating) if it happens early in a relationship. Says Tracy, a 33-year-old Web designer, “Even if the guy assumes you’re not hooking up with anyone else, it’s still kosher to fool around if you haven’t yet had the ‘we’re exclusive’ conversation.”

But every woman knows that a couple of cheating offenses, if discovered, are likely grounds for relationship termination: an ex-



To attract less attention, try not to leave the house in just a bra and panties.

“MY BOYFRIEND HAS NO IDEA WHAT I’M CAPABLE OF.”

tended affair, because of the ongoing duplicity it requires, and cheating on a live-in boyfriend. Janelle, a 29-year-old stylist, says, “I once brought a model home from a shoot and fucked him in my and my boyfriend’s bed. That night I couldn’t sleep. I knew if my boyfriend found out that just a few hours before our sheets had been wet with sweat and come from me and another guy, it would’ve killed him.”

Is It Worth It?

For every woman who gets off on jumping out of your bed, into another man’s, and then back into yours while you’re none the wiser, there’s another who’s tormented with guilt. The problem is, even if she wants to call things off, that doesn’t always mean she can or will.

One night after work, Samara, a 28-year-old waitress, confronted the restaurant’s sous chef about how they had to stop cheating on their partners together. The next thing she knew, they were having sex on a dining room chair, “completely getting off on the fact that we were in a space that coworkers and customers walked in and out of all day. It was illicit on two

levels, which just made it more of a turn-on.”

Indeed, the exhilaration of doing something bad can make for volcano-temperature sex, and that can make cheating a hard habit to break. As Kerner explains, “Secretiveness creates a lot of the thrill. Often, once people have been caught, the person they were cheating with is no longer interesting to them.”

Eventually, the stress of infidelity begins to outweigh the excitement for most women. But sometimes it can have a positive outcome, according to Kuriansky: “Cheating can end up being constructive if it causes a couple to ask why it happened and to make a new commitment to each other.” As unbelievable as that may sound, Naomi, a 26-year-old yoga instructor, can back it up: “I felt awful after I cheated. I realized I’d only fucked the other guy because my boyfriend and I had been fighting a lot. I went home, confessed, and bawled my eyes out. He was pissed but ended up seeing how we both had contributed to the situation. We stayed together, and things have been great since.”

Sin Signals

Before you start tailing your girl like a paranoid freak, realize that most of the time the signs she’s cheating are pretty freakin’ obvious. A few tip-offs: She’s not putting out; she slams her computer shut or clicks out of a window when you approach; she’s suddenly “crashing at Lisa’s” all the time (despite the fact that she kissed slumber parties goodbye after sixth grade); and, most peculiar, she’s no longer interested in having those once-cherished long, emotional conversations with you about what your relationship means or where it’s going.

If all these red flags have been raised, you’re probably—what’s that ugly word?—a cuckold. But the news isn’t all bad: Your girl may realize she’s messed up a good thing and do whatever it takes to redeem herself. If you don’t have a girlfriend, the news may be even better: Just find a woman who isn’t happy with her guy and you might stumble upon a white-hot one-night stand. If she eventually becomes your girlfriend, don’t say we didn’t warn you. ●

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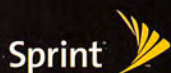
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SANYO



Clockwise from far left: Syracuse returner forgets the ball; textbook Vandy fumbling; Ole Miss WR takes a knee; Washington State prays, to no avail; a Stanford "catch"; Irish player claps to an unheard beat.



The Worst Teams in College Football

Who'll be scraping the bottom of the BCS barrel this season? We choose 10 squads headed for disaster.

10 Notre Dame

The fighting Irish have one of the most storied programs in the country, but over the past few years they've nearly destroyed any cred they earned in more than a century. Since taking over as head coach in 2005, former Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis has proved it's harder to be a genius when you don't have a clue about opposing teams' defenses: Last year the Irish finished dead last in total offense. A schedule featuring six losing teams might allow them to eke out a bowl appearance. But no matter who they draw, we guarantee a 10th straight loss. Time to bring back Rudy?

Lowlight: The university is investigating starting QB Jimmy Clausen for an "underage drinking incident" after photos hit the Internet showing the 20-year-old toasting at a house party.

Lamest tradition: Coating each player's helmet with paint containing real gold before each game. Hey—we're in a recession, assholes!

9 Mississippi

Where were you when JFK died? Maybe watching Ole Miss win their last SEC title! New head coach Houston "Busta" Nutt will

try to bring his winning ways from Arkansas (in 2006 the Razorbacks earned a bowl nod), but there's only so much one man can do. Last season the Rebels went winless in the SEC for the first time since 1982 and finished with a defense ranked next to last in the conference. What happens when a team like that faces juggernauts like Florida and LSU? You'll see point spreads even Tony Soprano couldn't fix.

Lowlight: "Ole Miss" is a title that was commonly given to a plantation mistress, and the school's mascot, Colonel Reb, represented a pre-Civil War plantation owner. Attention, U of Mississippi: The North won. Let's move on. **Lamest tradition:** Students decked out in their Sunday best—jackets and ties, semiformal dresses—for tailgates that include fine china and candelabras. Don't mess your boutonnières while doing those kegstands, kids.

8 Vanderbilt

If not for all those country singers warbling about their unfaithful wives, the Commodores would be the saddest thing in Nashville. The program with the 103rd-ranked offense (out of 119 teams) hasn't seen a win-

ning season since before the members of its current squad were born. You could point fingers in any direction, but we'll aim ours at the offensive line, which has sent only two players to the NFL since 1986. This year's outlook isn't any better: The team replaced 13 starters.

Lowlight: In 2002 head coach Bobby Johnson outlawed cursing. Players and coaches had to choose their words carefully or else do 10 push-ups on the spot. Fuck that, Vandy!

Lamest tradition: Each year, Vanderbilt frosh meet as a class to sign a copy of the school's honor code. The document is then displayed in the student center so kids can admire it while they give each other detailed rundowns of the essay questions on their art history exams.

7 Washington State

What happens now that star QB Alex Brink has left to get a real job with the Houston Texans? The Cougars' no-huddle offense is left to the slow hands and even slower feet of fifth-year quarterback-slash-tackling-sled Gary Rogers. A suggestion to new head coach and alum Paul Wulff: Perhaps if you let several actual cougars loose on the field—or

even a pack of sex-starved olderwomen—you'll have an outside shot at a few Pac-10 victories.

Lowlight: In January, Cougar safety Xavier Hicks was charged with assault for allegedly filling his roommate's contact lens case with rubbing alcohol after the guy forgot to pay the cable bill. To be fair, who wouldn't be devastated by a month without Larry King?

Lamest tradition: The victory bell struck after each win rings only in the keys of G and C, signifying "Go" and "Cougs."

6 Minnesota

Let's start with the good news: Sophomore quarterback Adam Weber set school records last year for completions, passing yards, and touchdown passes. The bad news: The 2007 Golden Gophers D notched one of the worst seasons in NCAA history, which helps explain the team's 1-11 record. So who'd they bring in to right the ship as defensive coordinator? Ted Roof, who went 6-45 as head coach of Duke. Well, at least the people of Minnesota have other things to do when the weather gets cold besides watch football. Oh, wait...

Lowlight: Astute observers of rodentia may

note that Goldy, the school mascot, bears little resemblance to an actual gopher. Why? The artist who designed it in 1940 didn't know what gophers looked like, so he drew a squirrel.

Lamest tradition: The winner of Minnesota's annual game against Wisconsin—the "Battle for Paul Bunyan's Axe"—gets to lug home a useless, ornamental six-foot hatchet. Fun!

5 Iowa State

Ah, the American heartland—home of towering cornstalks, youthful innocence, and...truly abysmal football. The 2007 Cyclones performed more like a faint breeze, drifting across the line of scrimmage for a meager 20 sacks and finishing 3-9. ISU dropped Big-12 powerhouses Oklahoma and Texas from its schedule this year, but with a leaky defense and no real quarterback, the Cyclones will still produce the worst losses in Iowa since Hillary shit the bed in January.

Lowlight: Iowa State has some of the worst graduation rates in the Big 12—third to last among conference football programs last year. Maybe they just can't read the playbooks?

Lamest tradition: Since the early 1900s, giddy

coeds have met under the school clock tower to seal their love with a kiss. Those who do so at midnight supposedly become "true Iowa Staters." Whatever the hell that means.

4 Baylor

Baylor may be a bright spot in the dismal city of Waco, Texas, but over the past 15 years, the university's football program may have suffered more losses than the Branch Davidians. Last year's defense allowed an average of 461 yards and 37 points a game, so Baylor brass gave head coach Guy Morriss the boot and then hired the offensive specialist Art Briles from the University of Houston to take his place. Huh? Whatever, the Bears need all the help they can get—though at his first press conference Briles proved he might not have a grasp on his team's losing reputation: "When people talk about Baylor," he said, "we want them to take notice." Oh, they have, coach. Trust us.

Lowlight: Since joining the Big 12 in 1996, the Bears have compiled an astonishingly bad 35-101 record and are the only conference squad not to make a bowl game.

Lamest tradition: At the annual "Pigskin ➤



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Clockwise from top right: a giggling Golden Gopher; ISU, faced; Baylor tears; Duke almost gets a pass off.



Revue" homecoming event, students perform Broadway-style song-and-dance acts. Because nothing says football like jazz hands.

3 Stanford

Stanford's program is steeped in history—John Elway is an alum, Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh ended his career there. But the Cardinal (it refers to the color, not the bird, though the mascot is a tree; we know, it's confusing) haven't made a bowl game since 2001. Yes, they beat USC last season as a 41-point underdog, but that was one game. If that happens again in 2008, those NoCal nerds should expect a visit from the FBI. Stanford had 14 Pac-10 All-Academic players on the team last year, yet their secondary still couldn't figure out how to stop opposing receivers. This year they've inexplicably scheduled seven road games with a barely-game-tested QB helming the offense. **Lowlight:** Behold the most famous blown lead in the history of football: On November 20, 1982, the Cardinal led Cal 20-19 with four seconds to go when the Bears fielded a squib kick and stumbled to the end zone, trampling members of the Stanford band, who'd stormed the field thinking their team had won.

Lamest tradition: Each mascot has to make his or her own tree costume. Really? A \$17.2 billion endowment can't buy a kid a cloth redwood?

2 Syracuse

The Big East isn't exactly football's roughest playground, but that hasn't stopped the Orange from getting their asses kicked regularly by conference opponents for the past several years. Last season they averaged just 62.7 yards per game on the ground—fewer than seven individual Big East players. That stat alone is probably enough to make alum Jim Brown wanna come back and beat the ever-living crap out of them. Not that it would help. Look for 'Cuse to stink up the East Coast worse than the New Jersey Turnpike this year. **Lowlight:** In last year's Super Bowl, wide receiver and alum David Tyree kicked off the Giants' game-winning drive by catching a 32-yard pass from Eli Manning. Using his helmet. **Lamest tradition:** It's custom for the men's head cheerleader to toss a golden horseshoe over the goal to the women's head cheerleader before each game. Superstition states that if she catches it, Syracuse wins. We say she should just suit up and join the receiving corps.

WORST OF THE WORST

1 Duke

They may be college basketball gods, but on the football field the Duke Blue Devils can't seem to escape the seventh level of hell—perennial suckiness. New head coach David Cutcliffe, who shepherded both Manning brothers through their respective college careers (as an offensive coordinator at Tennessee and a head coach at Ole Miss), is the program's first major coaching hire since Steve Spurrier some 20 years ago. But even a miracle worker would struggle with a team that's gone 1-23 over the past two seasons and suffered 25 straight ACC losses. We'll give the Dookies this: It takes a certain kind of dedication to be this bad, and on that point the overachievers this school attracts don't disappoint. So congratulations, Blue Devils. You are officially Maxim's pick for the worst BCS team in college football—for the second year running! You've earned it. **Lowlight:** The Blue Devils take their mascot name from a group of WWI French soldiers known as *les Diables Bleus*, who wore capes and berets during battle, making them unquestionably the most fashion-forward POWs around. **Lamest tradition:** Since 1986, masses of rabid men's basketball fans have gathered outside Cameron Indoor Stadium several days before big games, living in tents so that they can be first in line when admission to the arena is finally granted. When you're not a rich white kid, this is known as "homelessness." Then again, at least one of Duke's teams is inspiring irrational fandom.

Now Gillette has a complete range of high performance shampoos that give a charged clean.

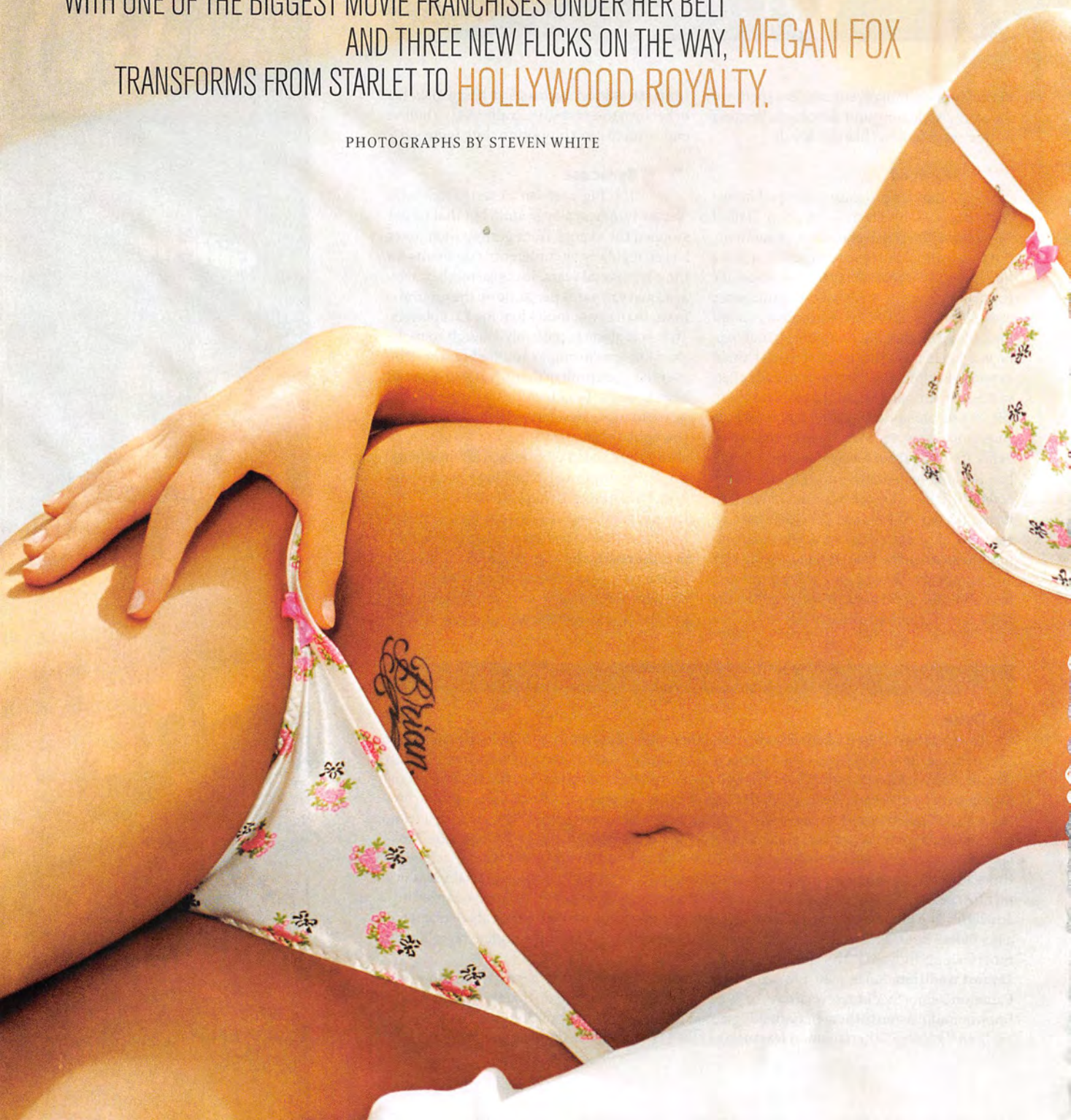
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TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOX

WITH ONE OF THE BIGGEST MOVIE FRANCHISES UNDER HER BELT
AND THREE NEW FLICKS ON THE WAY, MEGAN FOX
TRANSFORMS FROM STARLET TO HOLLYWOOD ROYALTY.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVEN WHITE







Dear Megan,

Every so often an actress comes along whose pure, mind-melting hotness effortlessly elevates her to sexual icon status. From Marilyn Monroe to Raquel Welch, from Pam Anderson to Angelina Jolie, Hollywood history is rife with freakishly gorgeous goddesses who have bewitched Guy Nation from the get-go. We may not have memorized all of their movies, but their scorching appeal is burned into our collective consciousness faster than an overheated pizza slice singes the roofs of our mouths. It is our considered opinion, Megan Fox, that you are the latest addition to this ultra-elite sorority of lust objects. And with your upcoming starring roles as (what else?) a sexy actress in this month's *How to Lose Friends & Alienate People* and a cheerleader possessed by the devil in the Diablo Cody-scripted comedy *Jennifer's Body*—not to mention a reprise of your breakthrough role as a ridiculously attractive robot wrecker in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*—we're about to see a whole lot more of Tinseltown's most wanted temptress. Hey, that's you, by the way!

For those of us whose brains have been permanently damaged by your disturbingly perfect beauty, we're pretty sure our synapses misfired sometime during that now-classic scene in the first *Transformers* in which you bend over the hood of a beat-up yellow Camaro and lovingly describe the muscle car's engine in your native Tennessee lilt to a flustered Shia LaBeouf. Your tiny orange crop top and skintight denim miniskirt showcased the shape of a woman who seemed to have just been boot-ed out of heaven for making Jesus Himself think impure thoughts. And who could blame Him? That single scene may be the biggest reason you're one of the most searched women in the world on Google and the subject of countless fan sites that are nearly as creepy as this over-the-top tribute to you. Yeah, we know we're laying it on a little thick, but really, it's from the heart.

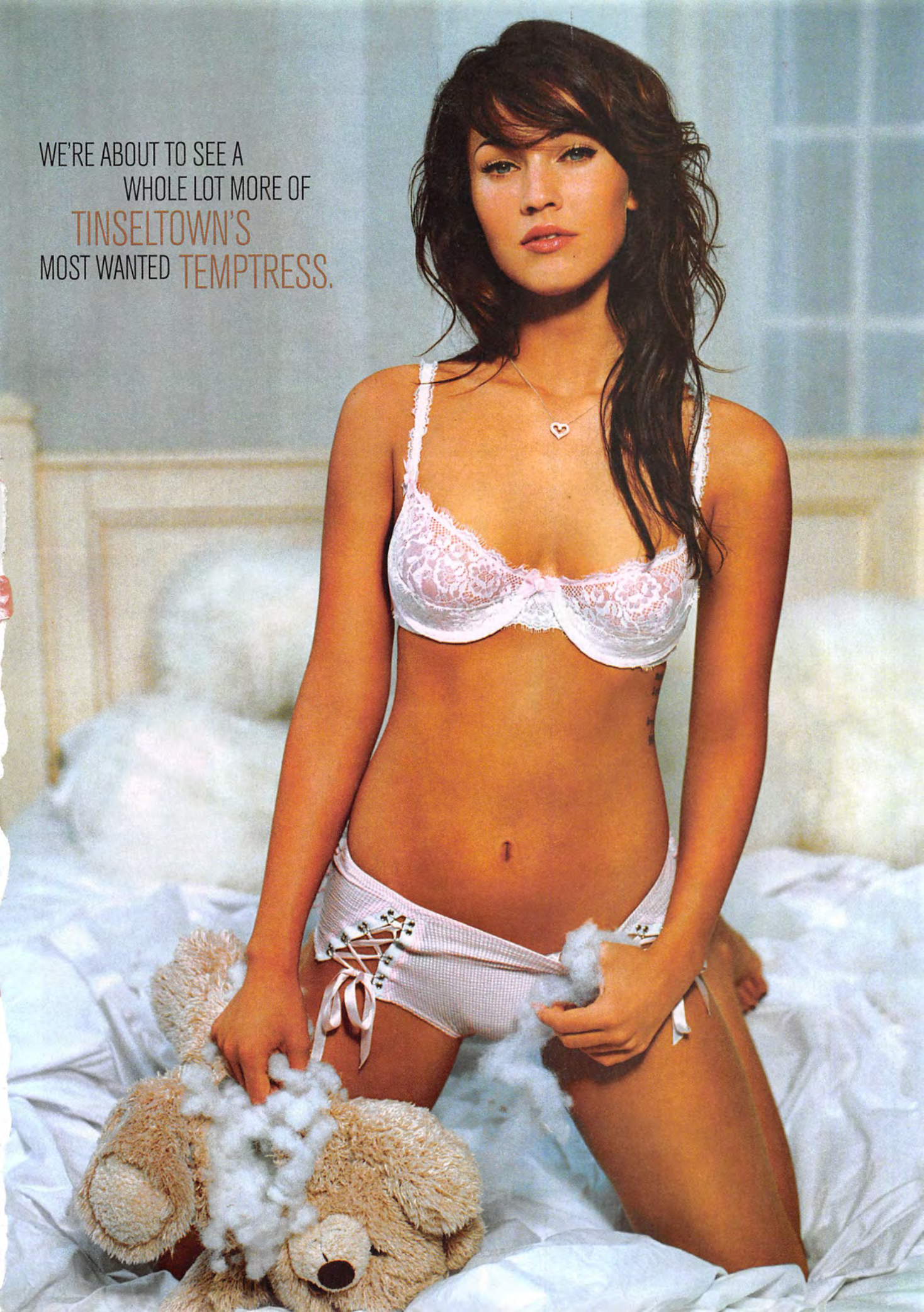
Looking back, it wasn't always easy to predict that you would one day loom large over the rest of the female race. You first turned heads playing Kelly Ripa's naughty teenage niece on the craptastic sitcom *Hope & Faith*. Then you made your big-screen debut opposite Lindsay Lohan in another forgettable flop, *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen*. Perhaps most unsettling of all, last we heard you were still engaged to former *Beverly Hills 90210* meatstick Brian Austin Green. (You even have BRIAN tattooed just inches from your crotch....Hey, we bet you'll never regret that one, Meg!)

Usually these kinds of career decisions would not the world's hottest new sex symbol make. But your insane gorgeousness could not be denied. After your epoch-changing appearance in *Transformers*, the planet stood transfixed. Your many tattoos became objects of intense Internet discussion. Your every red carpet appearance provoked a paparazzi blood feast, no matter if you rocked an Angelina-esque slinky black dress or skinny jeans and a vintage Mötley Crüe tee. You suddenly became *that* girl. And looking at all those pictures of you was like staring straight into the sun. (Thankfully, we only have one good eye.)

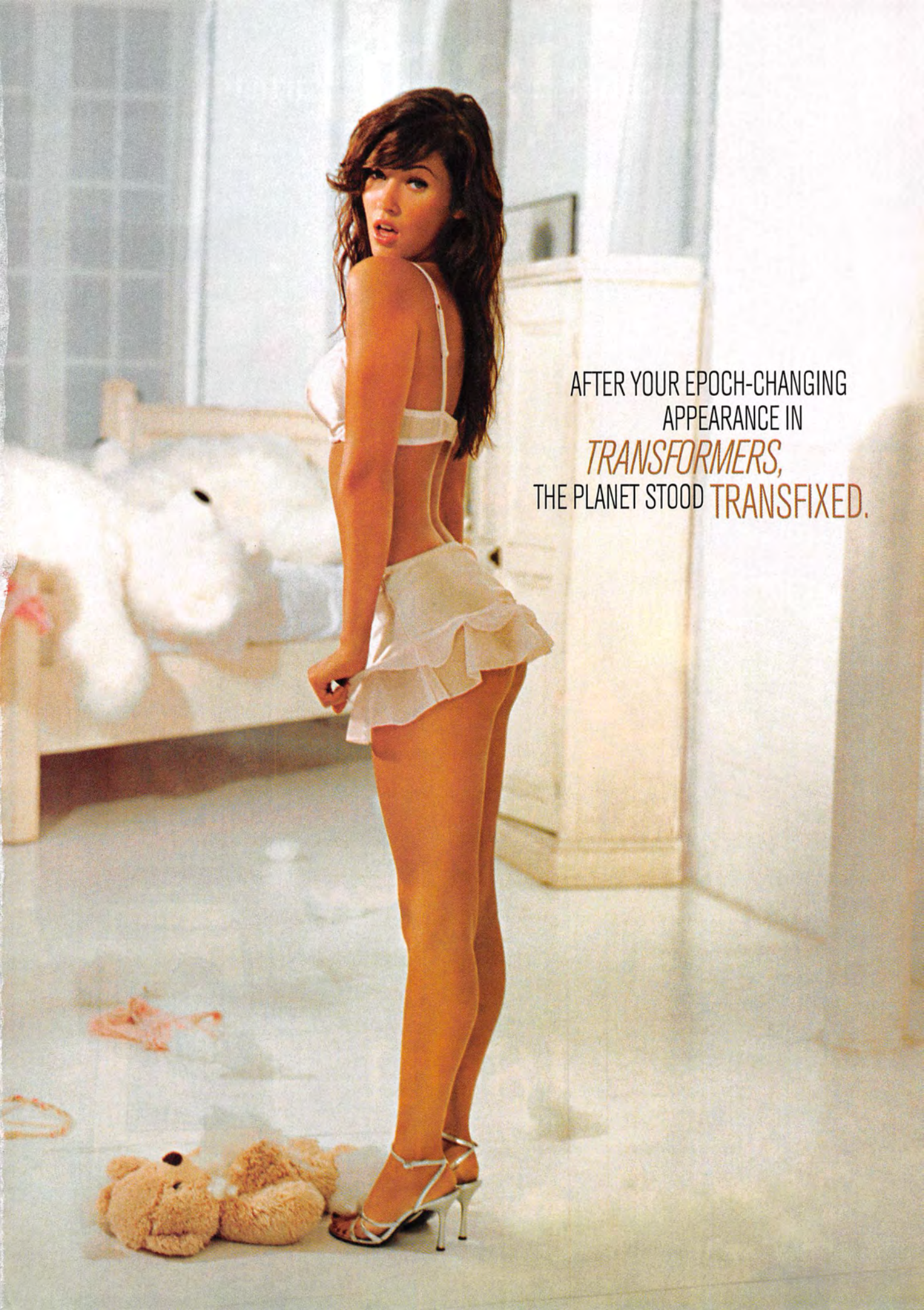
So it is with trembling hands and rabbit hearts that we place upon your perfectly formed head the crown of Earth's Hottest Girl. You truly deserve it. And as for you, Brian, the clock is ticking!

Love Ya,
Maxim

WE'RE ABOUT TO SEE A
WHOLE LOT MORE OF
TINSELTOWN'S
MOST WANTED TEMPTRESS.







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The definitive guide to squeezing the most sex, poker, booze, adventure, and full-on decadence into two freaky days in Sin City. Fun is guaranteed. Survival is not.

See that guy sitting across the aisle on your Vegas-bound flight? Yeah, the one engrossed in the SkyMall catalog. He thinks the next 48 hours are going to be awesome—a little gambling, a little golf, maybe even a little business. But Vegas isn't about "little." Vegas builds massive casinos with moats and limos with stripper poles. Vegas hums with dozens of hot nightclubs and glows with 15,000 miles of neon tubing. For the right price, Vegas even launches you into zero gravity or, if you bust out, consoles you with topless pools and bottomless pancakes. How can you jam all this excess and weirdness into two measly days and nights? With our street-tested guide and a total disregard for your physical and mental health and well-being, that's how. Just don't hold us responsible if you can't remember any of it later. We can only enable you so much. ➤



We know the pool is
littered with body glitter
and belly rings—and
we don't care!

Start Here

2:00 P.M.

SAPPHIRE "EURO" POOL

➔ When an SPF 30-defying Vegas sun beats down, two distinct choices present themselves: bask in the heat poolside or retreat into a strip club. Now, with the new Sapphire Pool at the Rio casino, there's no need to choose.

Although the sexy Euro trend (female sun worshipers can leave those cumbersome bikini tops in their suitcases) hit casino pools a couple of years ago, this is the first adults-only swim area to forge an alliance with a local lap dance emporium, namely Sapphire, which bills itself as "the world's largest gentlemen's club." The inspired partnership delivers 20 to 35 of the club's dancers to the roped-off pool on a daily basis, where they eat, booze, and erase tan lines for free. "We stock the pond," brags pool director Mike Kleen. "Then regular girls feel comfortable going topless, too. It's contagious."

On a typical day, the ringers (easily identified by pink wristbands, among other things) splash Nerf toys and gamely break the ice with paying patrons. A \$30 cover charge (\$50 weekends) lets male guests enjoy the view. Or invite a Sapphire girl inside your \$500 private cabana, but don't get any naughty "champagne room" notions: When the tops are doffed, the flaps stay open.—Steven Russell

TOP ADULT POOLS

MOOREA BEACH CLUB, MANDALAY
Escape the family pool for 12-foot opium beds.

BARE, MIRAGE
Cabanas get chilled cucumbers and Evian misting bottles.

GO POOL, FLAMINGO
Affordable, and tan attendants oil you up.

VENUS POOL CLUB, CAESARS PALACE
From the peeps behind Pure, a serene scene.

WET REPUBLIC, MGM GRAND
Huge adults-only spot, but no toplessness.



4:15 P.M.

RENT A MACHINE GUN

➔ If you're not ready to gamble, drink, and objectify showgirls, it's time to fire deadly assault weapons. Located three miles from the Strip, the Gun Store offers a for-rent arsenal that would break Gandhi's heart. "People are overwhelmed," owner Chris Irwin says. "They stare in awe, like kids at Disneyland." That

is, assuming Walt ever let Goofy play with Uzis.

Got a photo ID and \$50? Grab an M-16. On the indoor range, instructors guide you through the finer points of not perforating your neighbor. Then brace for recoil and take aim at a bin Laden-emblazoned target. "You got two in the turban!" instructor Tommy McLee shouts. "Now hold the trigger down longer!" Spent cartridges fall like rain, your shoulder takes a pounding, and Osama turns to confetti.—Adam Winer

7:00 P.M. Your last good shot to call home. Tell her Vegas is tacky and dull, but the other guys seem to be having fun. Then block her number and forget you even have a home.

8:00 P.M.

PALMS BUNGALOWS

➔ Location, location, location. That real estate mantra also applies to high-roller rooms—and the Palms' bungalows are the equivalent of Malibu beachfront. Perched on the edge of a sprawling pool complex, this trio of sleek playpens is within spritzing distance of several bars, frequent outdoor concerts, and vistas of oiled, exposed flesh. Inside is the 1,000-square-foot lair of a high-tech sheik: plasma TVs, fireplaces, a Jacuzzi, and a private upstairs bedroom with a balcony. Spending the night costs \$3,000, and it may well be worth it.

"A guy staying in a bungalow is the king of Vegas," boasts Palms president George Maloof Jr. "He has a good view of the whole scene—and everybody else has a good view of him."

Indeed, even big shots in poolside cabanas shoot jealous glances at bungalow-ers. When the pool winds down in the evening, invite 40 of your favorite new friends inside for the ultimate Vegas after-party. Of course, they may refuse to leave when you head out for the night, but that's no problem: A party this good will likely still be raging when you return.—S.R.



10:30 P.M.

CATHOUSE

➔ A man has to eat. So if the restaurant he randomly picks just happens to fuse decadent cuisine with a lingerie show, then it must be credited to Vegas luck. That's the promise of Cathouse, a bordello-inspired bistro and lounge in the hip-again Luxor casino.

Start by sharing oysters or tuna tartare, then graduate to sweet braised beef short ribs, all whipped up by Iron Chef alum Kerry Simon. Be careful not to slice off a finger when a one-way glass panel reveals a model powdering her assets in a makeshift dressing room. Indeed, the whole room—chandeliers, velvet wallpaper, 400 framed vintage erotic photos—oozes seduction.

Bread pudding? OK, but don't stuff yourself. The adjacent "lounge" is cranking up, with hipsters splayed across winding banquettes and dancers cavorting on stages. Their lingerie is for sale, providing the perfect pretext for discussing the finer points of fshnets. But, then, you just came for the food, right?—S.R.



The world's plushiest bathroom stall

MOVERS & SHAKERS



THE CASINO HOST

Mike Myers parties even harder than you do. And he gets paid for it.

Let's say a big shot rolls into town looking to blow \$100K on all the indulgences for which Vegas is infamous, but the poor schmuck doesn't know where to start. Chances are he'll soon be shaking hands with Mike Myers, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's 31-year-old "managing partner of nightlife and director of customer development"—a fancy way of saying he's a casino host, the guy paid to keep celebrities and free-spending whales very happy.

"I have contacts at clubs and restaurants all over town," says Myers. "I'm married, but I need to know every stripper in Vegas to do my job."

That job often begins with a referral from an ultra-high-end connection such as American Express' black card. From there Myers uses contacts and gut instincts to get the party moving. "When somebody is willing to drop \$50,000 in a club, I want to keep him coming back," he says. "I know your preferred table, your favorite liquor, if you like petite brunettes with big tits. With me you don't have to learn the hard way that you don't control your own destiny in Vegas."

Myers' own destiny began in 2001, when he and his wife moved on a whim from St. Cloud, Minnesota to Vegas and got bar jobs. His natural rapport with customers soon landed him a hosting gig at a Bellagio club, and a bulging roster of well-heeled contacts bounced him up the Vegas food chain to his current lofty position, though he admits "the past six years are a bit of a blur."

Keeping whales happy can take its toll. After a recent epic night of slurping a celebrity's Dom Pérignon, Myers blacked out and had to be hauled home by an assistant at 10 A.M. And then there's the high roller who insists that a 10-piece marching band announce his entrance at Hard Rock's signature club, Body English. Classy! But the most common requests involve women—lots of women. Though Myers swears he doesn't offer anything illegal, he's not above steering the hottest off-duty waitresses toward his clients' VIP booths. "There's a fine line between a girl who will have sex for \$1,000 and a girl who will have sex for free Cristal," Myers says. "This town is built around those girls."

Before you race to Vegas gunning for Myers' gig, consider whether you possess his stamina: "I ride private jets and spray Cristal. I live the life of a billionaire," Myers says. "On the other hand, I have to go out every night making sure everyone in Vegas knows who I am. I'm never off work."—S.R.



Kristina goes for that "natural" look.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



THE LAST SHOWGIRL

Can even a tall, topless blonde withstand the Cirque juggernaut?

Kristina Freeland was destined to be a showgirl. An impressive percentage of her six-foot stature is devoted to perfect legs, and the day the dance-crazy Bloomington, Indiana native turned 18, she joined Bally's venerable song-and-dance revue, "Jubilee!" "The other showgirls brought a cake to my dressing room," she recalls of that momentous 1998 birthday. "I was so excited because I was finally able to dance onstage in Las Vegas."

Ironically, Freeland's dream came true the same year Cirque du Soleil unveiled its second circus-on-acid Vegas show at the Bellagio. Soon there will be six. Indeed, Cirque's acrobats have eclipsed showgirls as the dominant icon of Vegas entertainment. "It is kind of scary to see how Cirque has taken over," Freeland admits, "but I think showgirls will survive." The pre-curtain backstage bustle, with dozens of half-naked dancers powdering themselves, certainly makes an observer hopeful. Still, an audience's tepid response to cheesy routines that haven't changed for 27 years can make a gal pine for the glory days when Rat Packers dipped into the showgirl dating pool. "Now it's more corporate," Freeland says. "We can't drink and mingle, but at least we get health benefits."

There are other benefits, too. "When I'm out on the town with some of the other showgirls, we never wait to get into clubs. It's a strange feeling of power," she says. "What's funny is when we hang out at a topless pool. Guys chat us up, but since they're usually shorter, they can't figure out where to aim their eyes."

Freeland credits that seminaked confidence to strutting her stuff up and down three flights of stairs, wearing a 30-pound headdress, two shows a night, six nights a week. "When I was 18, it was embarrassing. Now that I'm more cultured in the dance world, I feel like nudity is a natural part of the show. We've been given gorgeous bodies—why not show them off onstage?"

After dancing professionally for 10 years, Freeland is by no means ready to retire. But she has considered the eventual post-stage chapter. "I'm thinking of going to UNLV for a master's in public relations," she says. "This town runs on PR." —S.R.



12:00 A.M. The Hilton Sports SuperBook is the largest on the planet, so go ahead and put a bet on the favorite college squad back home. And Dale Jr. to win Talladega. And, hey, it's post time for the fifth race at Abu Dhabi racetrack! And...do you suddenly have a problem? You bet.

2:00 A.M.

VODKA VAULT

➔ To swill vodka properly, you have to dress like a Cold War Commie and risk frostbite. At the Russian-themed Red Square restaurant and bar in Mandalay Bay, choose a bottle from a selection of 200-plus vodkas, like the \$500 Jewel of Russia. Then don cold-weather gear—Soviet-era army jacket for guys, fur coat for gals—and step into the vodka vault, which is kept at a hypothermia-friendly 0°F. "Most people last 15 minutes," general manager Kari Olsen says. "They come in wearing sandals, and their feet start turning blue." Huddle around the huge block of ice that serves as a table and toast (drinkers, unite!) to the bust of Vladimir Lenin frozen inside. Members can even store unfinished bottles in the lockers that line the walls. But, then again, real Russians wouldn't leave a drop of the mother booze unsavored. —A.W.



3:15 A.M.

BLACKJACK BELLES

➔ The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino must think we aren't losing enough money on blackjack already. How else to explain hiring model-hot female dealers and outfitting them in "uniforms" that expose plenty more than their cards? Sheesh, we just forgot to split a pair of eights—rookie mistake. Just deal us a new hand, missy. Whoa, now three of these "Hell's Belles" (blonde, brunette, redhead—nice touch) are enthusiastically pole-dancing on an elevated stage so close we can identify their perfumes! And, Lord, now we just asked for a hit while holding a hard 19. Would somebody please alert the Nevada Gaming Commission? —S.R.

4:45 A.M. Granted, the crappy economy has hit Vegas pretty hard, which means you can score a lot of bargains at hotels and even poker tables around town. However, it does not mean that cute lady cop will blow you for \$20. Fifty bucks, maybe. ➔



DO MY FRIENDS ONLY LIKE ME FOR MY ALLOY RIMS?

Once you get your hands on the luxurious 2009 Corolla, you'll start to notice people acting differently towards you. You may ask yourself, "Does this rear deck spoiler² make me seem highfalutin?," "Are Daytime Running Lights too

flashy for my complexion?" Don't fret. The Corolla S was designed to be a high-class head turner, and the styling is not for the self-conscious. So slip into the driver's sport seat, clutch the leather-wrapped steering wheel, lift your nose, and give 'em a show.



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7:00 A.M.

KAYAK THE COLORADO

→ Thirty miles from the Strip, as your kayak first slides into the Colorado River under the shadow of Hoover Dam and the watchful eyes of terrorist-hunting patrol boats, you're reminded again of Vegas' artificial imprint on the desert landscape. But follow your Red Rock Adventure Spa guide around the bend and you're smack-dab in the middle of some major nature, complete with towering canyon walls, soaring eagles, and—huff—a bit of a headwind. The tranquil current is 51 degrees and feels damn good after you've stopped to climb into the 120-degree Sauna Cave. Paddle another leg of the 11-mile journey and you'll begin to take the scenery for granted—until you catch a herd of 30 bighorn sheep drinking their fill. When you finish, one thing is for certain: You've earned whatever giant slab of red meat you eat tonight. (\$150, redrocklasvegas.com/adventure_spa)—S.R.

3:30 P.M. You haven't gambled in hours. Fortunately, your cab driver is willing to go double or nothing that he can get you back to the Strip in 15 minutes.

4:00 P.M.

SCREW GRAVITY

→ The Stratosphere offers a glorified bungee ride, but this is Vegas, where there's a high-roller version of everything. True weightlessness is the only way to fly, and for \$4,147, the Zero Gravity Corporation will shoot you into space—or as close as you can get and still be back at the craps table a few hours later. Dressed in NASA-style jumpsuits, thrill-seekers board G-Force One, a hollowed-out Boeing 727. The jet climbs to 34,000 feet and, before you can say "astronaut diaper," executes a parabolic climb-and-dive that pins you to the floor, then levitates you with the sensation of swimming without water. After a minute of clumsy floating, gravity sets you down. Luckily, the arc is repeated 15 times, and soon you're flipping and gulping water globs out of the air like Tom Hanks in *Apollo 13*. You wish it would never end. It does, but again, this is Vegas—everyone comes back down to Earth at some point.—Dave Surratt

8:00 P.M. Your skinny jeans won't appreciate Bellagio Buffets' gourmet venison, king crab legs, sushi, and 400 pounds of Kobe beef. Your skinny jeans can suck it.



10:00 P.M.

WASTED SPACE

→ "Everything in Vegas is either a megaclub or an ultralounge," says motocross superstar and Vegas native Carey Hart. "It's too much of the silver-shirt crowd." His solution? Build a hangout safe for Motörhead tats and denim. Welcome to Wasted Space, a new bar/club created inside the Hard Rock. Sure, Wasted Space offers pricey bottle service, but it also slings \$4 PBRs. "I wanted to do something that's high-end but still has a dark, dirty, comfortable feel," Hart says.

The venue, dominated by a punk-concert-poster mural, boasts DJs spinning actual rock music and a stage for live performances—Good Charlotte's Benji and Joel Madden have already wowed the crowd. "I love places where I don't have to worry about photographers taking some wack picture of me drunk off my ass," Hart says, settling into a distressed-leather booth. "And this is that place."—A.W.

TOP NIGHTS FOR CLUBS

MONDAY
Jet, Mirage

TUESDAY
Moon, the Palms

WEDNESDAY
LAX, Luxor

FRIDAY
Pure, Caesars Palace

SATURDAY
Tao, the Venetian

SUNDAY
Body English, Hard Rock

Velvet Rope Dopes

Want inside that superexclusive club? Here's what not to say.

"Man, I hope \$3 is enough to buy a pitcher of Stroh's in this joint."

"Why are they letting all these supermodels cut in line? No fair!"

"I'm an editor at *Details* magazine."

"But the Make-A-Wish Foundation promised me a VIP booth!"

"Hey, does your bathroom attendant stock adult diapers?"

"Can you let me in please? My mom's picking me up at 10:30."

"I'm the country's premier upskirt photographer."

"Is it cool if I distribute religious literature inside?"



GET YOUR ISLAND ON™ LAUNDRY DAY

Ever since you moved out of your mom's house, laundry is such a drag. You never remember to separate your whites, and your dog has inherited all the sweaters you shrank accidentally. Make sure to get your island on when you do your laundry, and turn housework into a party with some Malibu.



1 Instead of hauling your 500 pounds of dirty clothes to the laundromat along the sidewalk, team up with a buddy, load your laundry bags onto skateboards, and surf with them down the street or down the stairs. It's like being a kid again!



2 The laundromat is a great place to meet "interesting" people. Play dumb (or just be yourself) and ask one of them for help setting the machine, or solicit her tips for getting your whites as sparkling as hers. It'll bring out her caring instincts in no time.



3 Washing machine = impromptu massage chair. While your clothes go through the wash and spin cycles, drape yourself on the machine and let the vibrations work out the kinks in your back while you sip on a Malibu cocktail. Get your new friends to do the same, and you will be an instant stud.



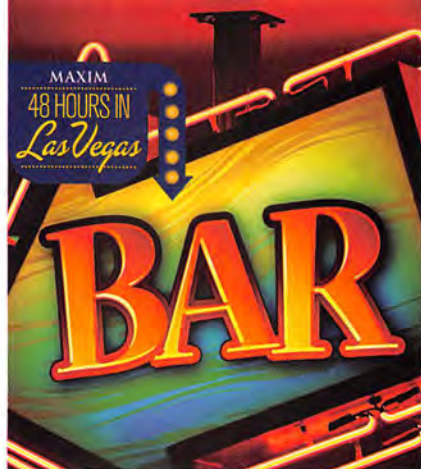
4 Create a foam party. Throw caution to the wind and use an empty washer and a bunch of detergent to create an instant foam party. Challenge your friends to a foam fight, but make sure you keep those Malibu cocktails clear of the suds!



Now that you've learned how to get your island on at the laundromat, go to maxim.com/malibu to liven up the rest of your life.

Get Your Island On Responsibly. Always drink in moderation.

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11:30 P.M.

DOWNTOWN DRINKING

➔ A stroll through seedy downtown Vegas uncovers not only a few entrepreneurs openly peddling hard narcotics and even harder sex, but also a budding local bar scene. Welcome to the freshly coined Fremont East district, a patch of almost-safe streets next to the neon-canopied, casino-laden blocks that have long been downtown's hub. "It's pretty much a secret among locals," says townie Tori Johnson, cradling a PBR draft in the district's premier suds slinger, the Griffin. Want to meet local lovelies who can be impressed by a drink purchase other than Cristal? Here's your pub crawl: (1) the Griffin, a bohemian-feeling speakeasy with a killer jukebox; (2) Beauty Bar, an N.Y.C. transplant themed to look like an old-fashioned beauty salon; (3) Sidebar, a shining shrine to mixology; and (4) Downtown Cocktail Room, a pulsing, dimly lit hipster lounge. The city recently spent \$5.5 million cleaning up the surrounding streets and adding retro neon, so the time to enjoy the scene is now, before damn tourists like us ruin it.—A.W.

12:30 A.M. OK, better at least make an appearance at the convention so the boss doesn't realize you're MIA. Hey, those ventriloquist dummies won't sell themselves.



1:00 A.M.

CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER THE NIGHTCLUB

➔ The trendiest new club on the Strip was created by the fashion designer responsible for the trucker-hat craze. But don't hold that against him. Inside the midsize Treasure Island casino venue, Audigier's trademark crystals, tattoo-art roses, and giant metal skulls decorate the walls, hinting at the decadence that awaits. Fashionably slutty girls crowd the dance floor. Two 1,000-gallon tanks swarm with jellyfish. "There's a whole room in back full of equipment just to keep these things alive," a waitress notes. The sea life glows under a blacklight, but eyes wander to a pair of blondes working stripper poles by the VIP area. Apparently, there is a second DJ on a terrace that looks directly onto TI's live pirate show and the Strip, but we never make it that far. The night proceeds, sans trucker hat.—A.W.



"Try it with a little garlic and olive oil...it's delicious!"

MOVERS & SHAKERS



THE PLASTIC SURGEON

Dr. Frank Stile is building a better Las Vegas—one breast at a time.

A recent Sunday afternoon at Scores, Dr. Frank Stile launched into his routine before an audience of 250 young female dancers. However, he wasn't selling his body—he was selling the opportunity to make certain things bigger, certain things smaller, and everything more profitable.

Stile, 41, is one of the busiest plastic surgeons in Vegas, where surgical enhancement is considered more of a job requirement than a personal whim. The native New Yorker arrived five years ago with billboards that pictured him surrounded by patients in thongs. "It raised the ire of more traditional plastic surgeons," says Stile. "But it got people in the door."

That door leads to Stile's \$5 million, 10,000-square-foot plastic surgery mecca, which cribs ceiling sky scenes from Caesars Palace and chandeliers from the Bellagio. Office manager Tiffany Gunn is a former *Playboy* model who also happens to be Stile's fiancée.

Stile estimates that 20 percent of his patients are "entertainers," a catchall term he uses to describe porn stars, strippers, and call girls. He cultivates this client base with presentations like the one at Scores, and while the response is generally positive, he has a secret weapon that helps him close the deal. "When I was in college and med school, I was an entertainer myself," he says.

Stile often steers clients away from the oversize implants that characterized Vegas "entertainment" in the '80s and '90s in favor of a more natural look. "It doesn't mean *National Geographic* natural," he says. "It means an un-operated-on look." In fact, a thriving part of his practice is correcting old surgeries for former entertainers who "want to downsize so they can go to PTA meetings."

However, most of his patients are looking for more, not less, and Stile thinks the economy is partly to blame—more ample dimensions mean more ample tips. But he's optimistic about his patients' prospects. "If you look the best and feel the best you can, you'll do better in this town. Trust me."—Michael Shear

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Anatomy of a Slot Machine

U.S. slots netted \$25 billion in '07. Even Dirty Harry's on board. But with brain-scrambling psychology and number-crunching, they don't need a .44 Magnum to take your money. So, you feel lucky, punk?

TOWER LIGHT Glows in a color that signifies a machine's denomination (red for nickels, yellow for quarters, etc.), making it easy for gamblers to locate their preferred wagering levels.

LOOK, MA, NO ARM!
Most video slots lack an external lever. But designers retained the lever's telltale "hitch" sound because players expect it.

AUDIO
Emits 500 unique sounds. Distinct signatures lure gamblers to machines, while loud bells or beeps signal a win to attract new suckers.

REELS Mechanical reels bearing cherry and banana icons have been usurped by video displays that flash hundreds of sophisticated, hypnotic animations.

LINE/BET SELECTORS
Allows wagers that icons will match across configurations such as diagonals, encouraging players to increase the number of bets (up to 20 per spin) and the number of coins per bet. On a nickel machine, betting max 20 credits on max 20 lines increases a single-spin bet to \$20.

REPEAT BET Conveniently oversized and located at the player's right hand, this button repeats the previous bet and activates the spin. Combining functions allows the machine to suck money at a faster pace.

SPEAKERS
Middle pair aims audio straight ahead, while outside pair uses noise-canceling technology to filter out casino din, helping to keep a player glued to his chosen machine.

BILL VALIDATOR Less picky than your office vending machine, since annoyed or superstitious gamblers will move on to another slot.

THE MATH Seemingly random algorithms pay out enough to reinforce the feeling that a big jackpot is one spin away. DH's manufacturer uses Ph.D.'s to calculate millions of mathematical probabilities.



2:15 A.M.

NOIR BAR

➔ BEEP! Guys, where the fuck are you? Lost you after the club cleared out, and now I'm in the Luxor—somewhere. I came in through this hidden side door. Reservations only—I hooked up with some girls who were on the list. We stumbled through a long red corridor before busting into a very cool new bar. Called Noir Bar, if you can find it. It's like a little speakeasy. They're saying it's open till 6 A.M. It's weird. There isn't even a drink menu. You just tell the bartender what you like—vodka, chocolate, steak, um...Metallica, whatever—and he spends 10 minutes mixing up something bizarre. Everybody is drunk. I just knocked back a carrot-cake martini. Yeah, a carrot-cake martini. I hope that doesn't make me gay. Wait a second, is that Dave Navarro? Anyway, you guys are morons for not being here. I'll find you in the morning.—A.W.

3:00 A.M. Take the biker dude you're handcuffed to's word for it: Do not call your girlfriend and ask for bail money.

3:15 A.M.

WESTERN HOTEL & CASINO

➔ "Don't take your eyeballs off them chips," wheezes the nicotine-stained coddler teetering on the blackjack stool next to you. "This place is full of assholes who'll snatch 'em and run."
Yep, finding yourself inside this dingy cave of a casino five sketchy downtown blocks from the Fremont Street Experience is a prime clue that your high-roller night has taken a bizarre turn. The smoke is thick, the floors are bare wood, and you're more likely to witness an arrest than a bachelorette party. Blackjack tables have \$3 minimums 24 hours a day, a roulette wager is a measly 25¢, and the slots are looser than the hookers trolling the parking lot. Tip your hard-times waitress generously and she'll bring tallboy beers till she looks like a Brazilian bikini model. (They pair well with the snack bar's fanciest dining option, a chili dog.) Just don't get too comfy, friend. Stay alert enough to ward off the locals begging for chips. Or, what the hell—toss somebody a fiver. Suddenly, here, you're a high-roller after all.—Mike Olson ➔



MAXIM PRESENTS

VERIZON WIRELESS GIRL OF THE MO

Verizon Wireless Girl of the Month Kimberly Sarah, 25, calls herself a "goodie-goodie," but if her sexy photo shoot was any indication, we have a feeling there's an inner wild chick bubbling just below the surface. We got her to share her secrets.

Q: How do you get psyched up for photo shoots?

A: I walk around my house half-naked and practice posing in front of the mirror.

Q: What's your favorite thing about modeling?

A: Getting my hair and makeup done. I'm usually more of a tomboy, so it's cool to get to be somebody else for a little while.

“ Looks are important on a guy, of course, but a sense of humor is better. ”

Q: What's the biggest risk you've ever taken?

A: I'm actually kind of a goodie-goodie—I'm not into taking risks.

Q: Do you like talking or texting better?

A: Definitely talking. With texting a conversation can take three hours, instead of a quick five-minute phone call.

Q: What do you use your mobile phone for besides talking and texting?

A: I take pictures, and I get a lot of pictures messages from my friends.



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Kimberly Sarah
Photograph by Amber Grey

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THE OBESE ELVIS
Vegas has plenty of E tributes, but only Bill's Gambler's Hall & Saloon has a jumpsuited 400-pounder who looks and sounds like he ate the actual late-period fat Elvis—for breakfast!

That's (Vegas) Entertainment!

Sinatra is dead. Long live the new show kings!



THE SURGICALLY ENHANCED CROONER

Seventies cheeseball Barry Manilow is on a mission to moisten the desert, one panty at a time. Will you hold our hand during "Mandy"?



THE LONG ISLAND-ACCENTED MAGICIAN

Mindfreak Criss Angel joins forces with the bendy folks of Cirque du Soleil for a show that'll make your paycheck and will to live disappear.



THE IMPERSONATOR

Danny Gans sings and cracks jokes in the voices of more than 300 celebs. What could be better than a guy who can nail Kenny Loggins and Jeff Foxworthy?



THE ASS CLOWN

We'd make fun of Carrot Top's shitty prop comedy, but have you seen him lately? Dude looks like he's got more 'roids in him than Marion Jones' pregnancy test!



4:00 A.M.

MAKE AN IMPRESSION (ON YOURSELF)

➔ You have no intention of getting a tattoo. Then again, you had no intention of drinking your weight in tequila and visiting a wedding chapel with a pre-op transsexual, either. But here you are, staring into the window of Vince Neil's tattoo parlour in the Flamingo—yep, the chubby Mötley Crüe singer/reality star. Look, some chick is getting a tat of...a butterfly. How original! Inside there's Crüe crap everywhere: Crüe stage outfits, Crüe motorcycle, Crüe videos playing on flat-screens. You know what would be hilarious? Demanding a big Poison tattoo on your ass. Hell, your buddies think it'd be rad! And the tequila is saying there's no way you'll regret this in the morning.—A.W.

10:00 A.M.

TRUEFITT & HILL

➔ Last night was epic—a depraved blur of sweaty clubs, controlled substances, and anatomically explicit lap dances. Now you've gulped a fistful of Aleve and ritually burned your "lucky" boxer shorts. And yet you still feel...funky.

Truefitt & Hill, the traditional British barbershop tucked into a corner of the Caesars Forum Shops, can complete your decontamination with style—and make you presentable for the skeptical girlfriend picking you up at the airport tonight. The hot-lather shave alone, complete with straight razor and warm towels (\$65), is enough to soothe a guilty conscience. "But we advise guys not to return home looking more clean-cut than when they arrived in Vegas," says master barber and all-around wise man Uziel Munoz. "It's too suspicious."

Still, throw in a neck massage and a shoeshine and at least you'll walk out feeling like a proper English gentlemen. Definitely not the sort of rogue who'd talk a pair of retired schoolteachers into a three-way in the elevator.—S.R.



➔ 2:00 P.M. Who knew an airport bench could be so comfy after two nights with no sleep? In fact, you just dozed right through your boarding call. Oh, well, another 48 hours in Vegas won't kill you. ●

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Must See Nadine

MY NAME IS EARL STAR NADINE VELAZQUEZ IS BACK AS CATALINA, THE MYSTERIOUSLY HOT FORMER CLEANING WOMAN WITH A TWISTED SENSE OF HUMOR AND A NEWFOUND PROFESSION AS A STRIPPER. BETTER GET YOUR TIVO FINGER READY.

BY MIKE OLSON PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES WHITE



Club Monaco tank top
La Perla panties
Azzedine Alaïa boots

SUMMER IS FINALLY OVER! DON'T GET US wrong: We love short skirts as much as anyone. But there's only so much bad TV we can take. For months now, everywhere we turn it's been obstacle courses and celebrities doing magic. But real entertainment is back—and *My Name Is Earl* is leading the charge. Our favorite redneck returns for another season, but the bumpkin's battle with karma gets a spot on our back burner, as we prefer to train our gaze on Catalina, the maid turned stripper played to perfection by Nadine Velazquez. Just like her character, this Chi-town beauty tends to be inappropriate, politically incorrect—and completely lovable.

SO OUR FIRST QUESTION...

Yes, I own crotchless panties. Several. I have a couple in my glove compartment, in fact.

ACTUALLY, THAT WAS OUR SECOND QUESTION. ARE PEOPLE DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY FIND OUT YOU'RE FROM THE MIDWEST AND NOT SOME EXOTIC TROPICAL COUNTRY?

I was discovered on exotic Lake Michigan while wearing a Carmen Miranda fruit hat. [Laughs]

WAS YOUR FIRST GIG REALLY A MCDONALD'S COMMERCIAL?

I was the drive-through person who said, "Welcome to McDonald's." I actually have photos.

IS THAT AS EMBARRASSING AS IT GOT?

No, I did a print ad for a peanut butter energy bar that was even worse. I was nude, and they smeared peanut butter all over me. I literally got smeared with 10 or 20 jars. Looking back I'm like, "What was I thinking?" There were hands in many places.

A NEW SEASON OF *EARL* IS FINALLY HERE. CAN YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT?

I can't really say what's going to happen. Um, Earl still has that list! I can say it's going to be similar to the first season; we had story arcs in the second and third seasons that were continuous, but that won't necessarily be the case. It's kind of like a brand-new start.

DO YOU AND YOUR CHARACTER, CATALINA, HAVE A LOT IN COMMON?

Well, I like to walk around in a maid's outfit, and I drive my car in my stripper outfit.

GLAD YOU MENTIONED THAT STRIPPER OUTFIT. CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF IT IN THE NEW SEASON?

Well, even if I'm not stripping, you'll still see me in the outfit. I wear that thing to the hospital, bus stops, and other random locations.

DOES IT GET OLD WEARING THE SAME THING?

It's like a second skin to me. I just want to make you guys laugh...



I CAN HANDLE BEING CALLED THE HOTTEST WOMAN ON TV.

WHAT OTHER SHOWS DO YOU GET EXCITED ABOUT WHEN A NEW SEASON IS STARTING?

Curb Your Enthusiasm. It's so hilarious. I love Larry David so much. I heard he was back on the dating scene, and if I wasn't married I would seriously want to date him. I swear to God.

BUT IT WOULDN'T GO FURTHER THAN THAT.

I don't know! Funny men really weaken me in the knees. It's like I'm a little girl in a candy store, and I keep waiting for the next joke.

WITH THIS INTERVIEW, WE'RE BASICALLY SAYING YOU'RE THE HOTTEST WOMAN ON TELEVISION. CAN YOU PUT THAT HONOR INTO WORDS?

I think that's the coolest thing in the world.

SOME WOMEN MIGHT CRUMBLE UNDER THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

I can totally handle it. I'll wear the tiara, put on the sash, and parade around. If I have to walk around for a whole year praising *Maxim*, I will.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE BEING A SEX SYMBOL.

I've always wanted to be on TV. Comedy is my thing, so all around I'm just lucky.

WE SPENT THE SUMMER DEALING WITH ALL THE CRAPPY "CELEBREALITY" SHOWS THAT TOOK OVER THE AIRWAVES. WERE YOU EVER ASKED TO DO ONE?

I was approached to do that circus one. I have to admit I was really excited about it. My dream as a child was to be a gymnast, but my schedule didn't allow it. In retrospect, I really wouldn't want to break my neck on live television.

BUT YOU'LL STILL BE SHOWING OFF YOUR ATHLETICISM WITH A NEW FITNESS DVD, RIGHT?

Yeah, I did it because so many people ask me what I do for my backside and arms—but especially my backside.

WHAT'S YOUR TOP ASS-BLASTING EXERCISE?

A simple squat. Bend your knees, stick out your butt, squat, hold it for two seconds, and come back. Do three sets of 20.

THAT'S A LOT. HOW ABOUT TWO SETS OF 10?

If you're squeezing your glutes *really* tightly, then yes. Anytime you squeeze your glutes, it's gotta be a good thing.

Season four of *My Name Is Earl* starts September 25.

Ever tried chasing
a tropical sunset
on a jet-ski?



Ever tried New 5 Gum?

Stimulate Your Senses™



(previous page)
Agent Provocateur bra
Palace Costume scarf
(this page)
Dollhouse jeans

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IN A MAID'S OUTFIT.**
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THE 2008

ELECTION QUIZ

THE HOTTEST THING TO HIT POLITICS SINCE ANDERSON COOPER'S THIRD NIPPLE!

BY MIKE OLSON

1. IF JOHN MCCAIN IS ELECTED, HE WILL BE THE SECOND PRESIDENT WHO WAS A POW. WHO WAS THE FIRST?

- A) Zachary Taylor
- B) Andrew Jackson
- C) Ulysses S. Grant
- D) William McKinley



2. WHO DID THE COMMUNIST PARTY USA ENDORSE FOR PRESIDENT IN THE 2000 ELECTION?

- A) George W. Bush
- B) Al Gore
- C) Ralph Nader



3. PASTOR PATROL: DO THESE MORONIC QUOTES COME FROM (1) OBAMA SUPPORTER REV. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT JR. OR (2) MCCAIN SUPPORTER REV. JOHN HAGEE?

- A) "The Israelis have illegally occupied Palestinian territories for almost 40 years now."
- B) "Why did [the Holocaust] happen? Because God said, 'My top priority for the Jewish people is to get them to come back to the land of Israel.'"
- C) "Do you know the difference between a terrorist and a woman with PMS? You can negotiate with a terrorist."



4. WHAT KIND OF SHOT IS HILLARY DOWNING IN INDIANA?

- A) Patrón
- B) Crown Royal
- C) Stoli
- D) Jägermeister



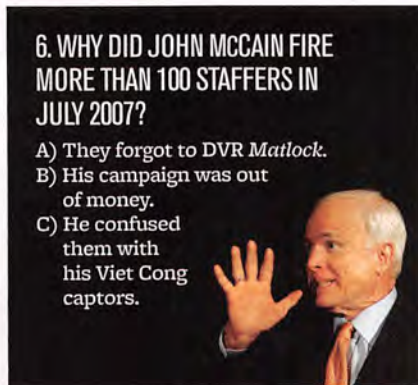
5. PUT THESE RIDICULOUS STOPS ALONG THE 2008 PRIMARY SEASON ROAD IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER:

- A) America's sellout, Rudy Giuliani, dons a Red Sox cap while campaigning in Boston.
- B) Cacklin' Ann Coulter calls John Edwards a "faggot."
- C) Stephen Colbert announces his presidential bid.
- D) *The New York Times* accuses John McCain of screwing a lobbyist.
- E) Geraldine Ferraro goes on a racial rant.
- F) Hillary Clinton recalls dodging sniper fire.



6. WHY DID JOHN MCCAIN FIRE MORE THAN 100 STAFFERS IN JULY 2007?

- A) They forgot to DVR *Matlock*.
- B) His campaign was out of money.
- C) He confused them with his Viet Cong captors.



7. WHO SAID THIS IN NOVEMBER 2004? "I CAN UNEQUIVOCALLY SAY I WILL NOT BE RUNNING FOR NATIONAL OFFICE IN FOUR YEARS."

- A) Hillary Clinton
- B) Mitt Romney
- C) Dick Cheney
- D) Barack Obama

8. WHO DID GEORGE W. BUSH SAY WAS THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHER HE MOST IDENTIFIES WITH?

- A) Ronald Reagan
- B) Jesus Christ
- C) Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D) Yoda



9. FUN WITH PROFANITIES! FILL IN THE BLANKS ON THIS ANGRY JOHN MCCAIN RANT TO HIS WIFE: "AT LEAST I DON'T PLASTER ON THE MAKEUP LIKE A _____, YOU _____."

- A) whore/bitch
- B) bitch/whore
- C) trollop/c**t
- D) c**t/trollop



13. MATCH THE CELEBRITY ENDORSER TO HIS 2008 CANDIDATE.

- A) Sly Stallone
- B) Howard Stern
- C) Chuck Norris
- D) Jon Voight
- E) Larry David

- 1) Rudy Giuliani
- 2) Barack Obama
- 3) Mike Huckabee
- 4) Hillary Clinton
- 5) John McCain



10. HILLARY CLINTON REPORTEDLY YELLED AT A CAMPAIGN AIDE WAY BACK IN 1974: "YOU _____ JEW _____!"

- A) fucking/asshole
- B) fucking/bastard
- C) cheap/cksucker

14. CAN YOU GUESS WHOSE GLEAMING WHITE HOUSE-WORTHY CHOPPERS ARE TRYING TO BITE YOU?



15. HOW MANY HALF-BROTHERS AND SISTERS DOES BARACK OBAMA HAVE?

- A) 6
- B) 8
- C) 10
- D) 12
- E) 0



11. DICK CHENEY TO PATRICK LEAHY ON THE SENATE FLOOR: "GO _____ YOURSELF."

- A) fuck
- B) screw
- C) cornhole
- D) blow



12. WHAT HAS MICHELLE OBAMA PUBLICLY STATED IS SOMETHING SHE WILL NOT DO AS FIRST LADY?

- A) Sit in on Cabinet meetings
- B) Fist-bump with terrorists
- C) Wear pantyhose



- 1) Mitt Romney
- 2) John McCain
- 3) Rudy Giuliani
- 4) Barack Obama

16. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE CANDIDATES WILL SPEND A COMBINED \$1.4 BILLION IN THIS ELECTION. INFORMATION LIKE THAT MAKES US WANT TO:

- A) Strangle puppies
- B) Vote for Nader

ANSWER KEY

Give yourself 2 points for each correct answer. 1. b 2. b 3. A(1) B(2) C(2) 4. b 5. b,c,a,d,e,f 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. c 10. b 11. a 12. c 13. A(5) B(4) C(3) D(1) E(2) 14. A(3) B(4) C(2) D(1) 15. b 16. a

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

0-10

Democracy for dumb-asses: Do you have trouble spelling "U.S.A." on FedEx slips?

12-40

Presidential sweet! Your interest in our political process is as intense as Larry King's ear hair.

42-60

Wonk off: Could you be the long-lost love child of Hannity and Colmes?

ICON

MARK WAHLBERG

FROM UNDERWEAR ADVOCATE TO OSCAR-NOMINATED ACTOR, THE MAX PAYNE STAR IS STILL A BOSTONIAN AT HAHT.

BY MICHAEL RUFFINO PHOTOGRAPH BY WARWICK SAINT

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

My girlfriend [model Rhea Durham] is getting ready to have our baby, so it's mostly all about that. It's quiet around here. At least it was till the new neighbors moved in.

WHO MOVED IN?

Well, Jessica Simpson moved in next door, and the Beckhams live just down the street. So now there are paparazzi all the time. They don't bother with me much, but there's a lot more commotion around here.

HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED OVER TO ASK THE BECKHAMS FOR A BOWL OF SUGAR?

Never met them. They seem like nice enough people, though.

MAX PAYNE, YOUR NEW FILM, IS BASED ON A VIDEO GAME. HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED IT?

No, but you'd be surprised how elaborate the story is. My assistant got addicted, but I can't do that stuff. My girl's been so tolerant of my vices. If I add video games to the list, I'm sure she'll leave me. The film, though, is going to be very satisfying for the die-hard gamers.

YOU'RE FROM DORCHESTER, A WORKING-CLASS BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD. BIG FAMILY?

Youngest of nine kids. And my dad had four others from another relationship. He was a Teamster. He came down to the set of *The Departed* when we were shooting in Boston.

DID HE ENJOY IT?

Yeah, but he was griping a little: "These fahkin' Hollywood guys." He didn't like that the Teamsters on the set didn't work as hard as he used to. But he liked the movie.

A LOT OF BOSTON SWEARS BY THAT MOVIE. YOU KNOW—IT'S "ONE OF OURS."

Yeah. And they were nice enough to let some of the accent slide, instead of everybody just saying, "Pahhk the cahh at the bahh."

THERE'S A HISTORY OF ABOMINABLE BOSTON ACCENTS IN FILM. THE ONE ROBIN WILLIAMS

USED IN *GOOD WILL HUNTING* COMES TO MIND.

I know. Even Marty [Scorsese] had no clue how a Boston accent sounds. It's a totally different world—Boston and New York are so different, and then, on top of that, Irish versus Italian.

THE MOST QUOTED LINE FROM THAT FILM IS YOURS: "I'M THE GUY WHO DOES HIS JOB. YOU MUST BE THE OTHER GUY."

Right! I know. I read the line in the script and thought, *Yeah, it's funny*. But I didn't expect it would get this kind of reaction. Every time I said it, Marty would completely bust up.

EVEN MARTY SCORSESE HAD NO CLUE HOW A BOSTON ACCENT SOUNDS. BOSTON AND NEW YORK ARE SO DIFFERENT.

YOU HAVE A TWO-YEAR-OLD, MICHAEL, AND A FIVE-YEAR-OLD, ELLA. DOES ELLA UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

For the most part, I try to keep that a secret. For her sake. The only thing she's actually seen is her daddy on TV being chased by a gorilla.

A GORILLA?

Planet of the Apes was on TV.

RIGHT. SO YOU TRAVEL WITH A BIG GROUP OF FRIENDS AND EXECUTIVE-PRODUCE HBO'S *ENTOURAGE*. WHAT'S YOUR GANG LIKE NOW?

The guys around me I've known for a long, long time. They're people I know I can trust. And, yeah, there's definitely a Johnny Drama, a Turtle, an E. But the idea for *Entourage* came from a short film that I shot about some of my old friends, Boston guys who had a rap group. I got them a gig opening for 'N Sync. We filmed them practicing for that, all their

trials and tribulations, and everything that went into trying to "make it." A number of people at the network loved it—the guys, the situations—and they said, "Why don't you make a show with them?" I said, "No fucking way. But I'll make a show about a similar kind of thing, with actors."

GROWING UP, YOU WERE WHAT MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD CALL A HOODLUM, BUT YOU MANAGED TO PULL YOURSELF OUT OF IT. YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT A PRIEST.

You mean Father Flavin. A good man. He was a very important influence on me back then, and he still is; I consider him a close friend. We talk all the time. Without him, things might have turned out a lot worse for me. They would have; I'm sure of that. He was one of the people trying to straighten me out. My brother Donnie helped me a lot, too, tried to keep me on the right track.

DID THAT LIFE EXPERIENCE HELP YOU DEAL WITH THE BULLSHIT IN HOLLYWOOD?

Oh, yeah, absolutely. But more than anything, I think about my friends who didn't make it out. I mean, we were all fucked up, doing things we shouldn't have been doing. But looking back, so many of those guys were so smart and so funny and could have been so successful. Then I look at where I am, and I think, *They could be doing this*. And they'd be great. The thing is, where I grew up, if you walked around the neighborhood saying you wanted to be an artist or a writer, you'd get the living shit kicked out of you. I like that I get to play a badass and at the same time tell kids, people from my neighborhood, that there is a lot of good to the world, when it might not be so obvious, living where they are, dealing with bad situations.

BEING IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, DO YOU DRIVE A PRIUS?

No. I drive a Mercedes. When Mercedes comes out with a hybrid, I'll drive it.

Max Payne hits theaters October 17.



THE
FANTASY
GIRL





My Best Friend's Girl's gorgeous Dora Baird spills on surviving a date with Dane Cook, the joys of modern refrigeration, and the upcoming *Star Trek* remake. Set phasers to stunning.

BY LISA LOMBARDI PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHAN WÜRTH



Vince shirt
Cosabella underwear
Azzedine Alaïa shoes
Jewelry available at B-Boutique

Dries Van Noten
raincoat Zimmermann
bikini bottom



FOR A WOMAN WHOSE FIRST GIG IN HOLLYWOOD WAS PERFORMING AS A CLOWN AT KIDS' parties, Dora Baird has come a long way. She defined poetry in motion while diving onto a bed during the early montage of *Wedding Crashers* and spent the better part of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning* trying to outrace a prepubescent Leatherface. Now you're about to get more Dora than you ever dared to dream. With five flicks on the way, including this month's *My Best Friend's Girl* and J.J. Abrams' hugely anticipated *Star Trek* update, Ms. Baird is about to go ballistic.

YOU COSTAR WITH DANE COOK IN *MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL*. YOU SURVIVED THE PROCESS?

Dane Cook really surprised me. I didn't think I was going to like him. My character is this snob-by-prude who was supposed to be annoyed by him. I thought, *Oh, this will be easy.*

AND IT WASN'T?

No! I even told him I thought he'd be annoying, and he was like, "Thanks." I told him that I don't crack up on-camera, and he was like, "Oh, really?" So the entire time, all he did was try to make me break. We were in this scene where we're at a Mexican restaurant, and he took his burrito, opened it up, and started giving it sexual pleasure with his tongue. Of course, I could not keep a straight face.

LET'S HOPE YOU KEEP THINGS TOGETHER IN THE NEW *STAR TREK* FLICK. WHO ARE YOU PLAYING?

I play the green girl. There you have it.

SO YOU'RE AN ALIEN?

Um, I would assume so—unless I was born with

a skin disease. In the original series, there were these infamous green women that Captain Kirk would hit on, and so without giving too much away, I'm one of those green girls.

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE KLINGON-SPEAKING NERDS OBSESSING OVER YOU?

It hasn't quite hit me, because I've never been a big sci-fi fan. I'm not a horror fan, either, and then, with *Chainsaw*, suddenly I was at these conventions with really scary people. Combine that with the *Star Trek* stuff and I'm going to have the perfect psychopath as my fan.

HAS ANYONE GIVEN YOU ADVICE ABOUT SUCCEEDING IN HOLLYWOOD?

When I first moved to L.A., I was 17, out at some bar, and George Clooney was there. I got up the courage to go up to him and tell him I was an aspiring actor. He goes, "Look, I'm turning 40"—this was obviously a few years ago—"and I'm just now, at this point in my career, getting to do what I want to. All I can say is: Be patient." That's something I've kept in my head.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU BLEW YOUR FIRST BIG PAYCHECK ON?

A pink Frigidaire. It was a scary check to write, but now I have a refrigerator.

WHAT'S ALWAYS IN THERE?

Cheese and chocolate. That's pretty much it.

WHAT'S A TYPICAL SATURDAY NIGHT LIKE?

I'm not a party girl, but recently I've been going out on dates. I try to be a normal Homo sapien and mingle with the other Homo sapiens.

WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU ON A DATE?

I went to dinner with this one guy, and when we got back to his place, there was nowhere to sit but on his bed. Within seconds—I don't know how he did it, he must have had a Velcro outfit on—he was completely naked! I quietly said, "I gotta go put some money in the meter. Don't move, I'll be back." I never went back.

SO WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN A GUY, BESIDES NOT INAPPROPRIATELY REMOVING HIS CLOTHING?

Sarcastic humor. It can be a problem, because I've worked with some funny guys, and I end up falling for them. I'm like, "Uh, this is getting awkward," as I'm writing them love letters. Yeah, that's the best way into my heart.

My Best Friend's Girl opens September 19.

STYLING: KAREN SHAPIRO; MAKEUP: KATHY JEUNG FOR MAGNET L.A.; HAIR: JIAN JAMES AT THE WALL GROUP; SPECIAL THANKS TO THE KORAKIA EXPERIENTIAL RESORT.

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TO LIVE, DIE, AND PARTY IN

L.A.

THINK **ENTOURAGE** IS A FANTASY? THINK AGAIN. WELCOME TO THE ARRESTED-DEVELOPMENT WORLD OF HOLLYWOOD BACHELOR PADS, WHERE SOME WILL SOAR AND OTHERS WILL CRASH AND BURN.

BY MATT DIEHL PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHEW SALACUSE AND SHAWN MORTENSEN

"WHAT'S THE TOP SPEED THIS BAD BOY GOES?" DAN RAMBERG, riding shotgun, asks his housemate Fred Warner. "Eighty-five, baby," says Warner, steering his cherry-condition 1964 Thunderbird down palm-lined Sunset Boulevard on a hot July night, the evening before a planned house party. "She's a lover, not a fighter," Ryan Hadaller, their other roommate, coos. "Yeah, like Billy Dee Williams," agrees Warner.

As the Raconteurs' "Steady as She Goes" blasts from the car's hook-up, Hadaller shouts from the backseat the names of bars they could go to that have the cheapest drinks and the hottest women. The neon lights of strip clubs and tattoo parlors blur by. They pass by a street sign that reads NO CRUISING, and laugh that it even exists.

They could go to Swingers, the Beverly Boulevard diner sharing a name with the 1996 film about unemployed actors in search of "babies," but maybe that hits a little too close to home. And Ramberg works there as a manager. *Played*. The Chateau Marmont? Nope. Warner worked there as a bartender. Don't look back. Instead of the medium cool of Bar Lubitsch or the too-cool-for-school Hyde, they opt for Jones, a reliable West Hollywood fixture where you can still smoke, the hot female bartenders wear leather, and the ratio of girls to guys is often three to one.

As a BMW passes them in the oncoming with four guys—also quintessential "dudes" in their 30s out for a joyride—Ramberg, 38, spots an idling black-and-white. They slow down. "I'd been out drinking one night, and I got pulled over by a cop," he says. "I didn't know what to do. But there was a condom sitting in my ashtray. So I opened it, put it in my mouth, blew it out, and the smell, like, enveloped the car. It worked, man. The condom smell got me off a DUI."

As the three guys pull up to Jones' valet, Warner, 34, expresses concern about his money situation. The sometime actor, who says his lowest point working in Hollywood was bartending Tori Spelling's baby shower in a pink cowboy hat, pulls out some residual checks from his billfold. "Here's one for \$4.64. Here's another for \$7.45." He laughs. "Hey, that's three gallons of gas right there!"

If the scene suggests a real-life, albeit low-rent, version of *Entourage*'s opening credits, it should. While HBO's wildly popular show, which chronicles the bros-hos-and-Hollywood hijinks of A-list star Vincent Chase and his three schlubby hangers-on, now in its fifth season, may seem like the ultimate teenager's fantasy, the truth is that the City of Angels is full of variations on the *Entourage* dynamic. It's a town where single, straight white dudes shack up together in countless crash pads, sharing electric razors, aspiring starlets, kegs of Stella, and Hollywood dreams long after their dormitory days.

It all may sound fun, but it has a dark side, one that's only hinted at on the show. After all, there's something inescapably embarrassing about a gang of thirtysomething would-be players trying to prolong their collective adolescence past the sell-by date. For all its on-location shoots, set inside the coolest new hotels, the most exclusive clipboard-Nazi clubs, and the most private of celebrity residences, the show is largely viewed as a Hollywood myth of "the good life." The unfailing good luck bestowed upon the characters couldn't possibly be real. No matter how many mojitos they drink, swag bags they nab, and ladies they bed, "the boys" of *Entourage* just keep winning in each ADD-fueled half-hour episode. And the hangovers never come. Nor do the addictions, the STDs, or the DUIs.

But for an increasing number of Hollywood wannabes, a diluted version of this dream life is real life. As Ramberg, Hadaller, and Warner tool along Sunset in their T-Bird, they can't help but recognize that their lifestyle is a funhouse-mirror reflection of that portrayed on the show. While lead man Vince strives for Oscar recognition, Warner is giddy with the recognition he received from pals when they saw him in a Bud Light commercial one Super Bowl Sunday. Ramberg has a friend nicknamed Turtle, just like the chubby, sneaker-obsessed fourth wheel of *Entourage*. Hadaller recently got approved for a medicinal pot prescription, just like Johnny Drama did in one memorable episode. And, almost weekly, they have a cameo run-in with some actor they admire, which is a com- ➤

mon occurrence on the show. The trio, who are members of a sketch comedy group called Dry Hump and have known each other since college, couldn't imagine living any other way than together in their rented four-bedroom West Hollywood ranch, nicknamed "the Martel" (after their street). And they are far from alone. *Entourage* may be a fantasy. But it's also a reality...

Life imitating art, or art imitating life? In *Entourage*-like houses in West Hollywood, Los Feliz, and that long stretch of shaggy rentals that edge the Pacific Coast Highway from Santa Monica to Zuma, the answer is a bit of both. But in real life the hangover *does* arrive.



ENTOURAGE BEGAN AS A REFLECTION UPON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Mark Wahlberg's early years in L.A., when he was trying to make it alongside his posse of no-name hometown friends. But long before the show debuted in 2004, the *Entourage* life was already alive and drinking. "I don't think we influenced that 'guy' culture. That culture influenced the show," says *Entourage* creator Doug Ellin, who lived it himself for his first few years as a rising Hollywood screenwriter. "The dream out here is to keep it like high school and have fun with friends all the time. In other cities, people grow up more. But in L.A. people keep it going as long as they can. It's a fantasyland, with the weather, the girls, the success," Ellin says. But it's also a place where you can make your dreams really happen.

"I've seen all the *Entourage* stuff happening for 20 years," he adds. "When I first got here, I went out every night and hung out all the time. There's a reason why people get married in L.A. later than in any other place. Here nobody grows up, and you don't need a degree or a discernible skill to make millions of dollars."

For 30-year-old Hollywood "playa" Cisco Adler, who lives in an ocean-front compound with his rapper pal Shwayze and two other guys, the meta-ness of his life and the HBO show is uncanny. "We all hang out in Malibu at my crib, where we import the finest of everything Hollywood has to offer," he says. "It's got 180-degree views of the ocean. At any moment there are at least 10 guys and some girls living at my house. If you come to Malibu, you'll end up at my crib...and unless you're a douchebag, you can hang out." Adler has chalked up his share of conquests from living as he does: He's dated everyone from Mischa Barton to Paris Hilton. For him life does not get any better than this.

Shwayze, who is 23 and grew up in a Malibu trailer park, can't believe his own luck. "Our situation is even more *Entourage* than *Entourage*!" he says. "I'd never been to Hollywood or hung out with those kinds of chicks. Now I get to live it up!"

Living it up for them consists of having their own basketball court, a



OCEAN'S FOUR (from left): Skeet, Cisco Adler, Warren, and Shwayze in their home recording studio.

custom-painted school bus, a pool, a Jacuzzi, an in-house recording studio, and a 24-hour party that is filmed weekly for their own MTV reality show, *Buzzin'*. Meta, indeed.

For Adler the "dream" wasn't earned like it was for many others who live in *Entourage*-style cribs. Like an entire subculture on the West Coast that's referred to as "the Hollywood Brats," he is, as the son of music honcho Lou Adler, L.A. royalty. This is how he's rolled since childhood.

For others the lifestyle just magically fell into their laps. Like the two brothers who form rap act the Knux. A few years ago, Krispy Kreme and Rah Al Millio fled to Houston from their post-Katrina home in New Orleans; soon after, they found themselves being offered a record deal that came with a Hollywood mansion with a studio, provided by their label, in which to record their debut CD. "Hell, yeah, we were living the *Entourage* life!" Krispy, 25, shouts. "Our house was crazy! You'd be walking around over people lying on the floor, like, 'What the fuck are you doing here?'" Says Rah, 24, "It looked like an American Apparel ad: all sweaty V-necks and models. People stayed over whenever they wanted."

Which was just fine by them. For many *Entourage* housemates, the best thing about sharing a bachelor pad is that they don't have to go to the party—the party goes to them. As do the countless girls in L.A. who make partying their living, to meet guys with bling or maybe land a spot on a reality show. Or even a husband. (But let's get real.)

And for houses, there's another amenity. In a city famous for being one of the most disconnected and lonely places known to man, it's hard for single people to meet anyone, let alone see them. The housemate arrangement ensures a built-in support system: You can't be lonely when you're never alone.

For example, the three guys at the Martel house all confide that when something bad happens to them—say, a blown audition or a girlfriend fallout—they can talk it through with each other over a drink. It's also extremely economical for those not as fortunate as, say, Adler.

In contrast with its big brother Manhattan, renting a large house ➤

Join the Clubs!

From the '60s to the present, high-profile colleagues have worked, played, and sometimes even gone to jail together.

The Rat Pack
(1960–1969) Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Joey Bishop, Peter Lawford, Angie Dickinson, Shirley MacLaine.



The Rebels
(1965–1973) Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda, Jack Nicholson, Dean Stockwell, Harry Dean Stanton, Terry Southern.



All the President's Men
(1969–1974) Richard Nixon, H.R. Haldeman, G. Gordon Liddy, John Mitchell, John Dean, E. Howard Hunt.



The Pussy Posse
(1995–2000) Leonardo DiCaprio, David Blaine, Tobey Maguire, Lukas Haas, Harmony Korine, Q-Tip.



The Brad Pack
(2001–Present) Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Casey Affleck, Julia Roberts, Ellen Barkin.



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CRUISING AND BOOZING (opposite, from left): Roomies Dan Ramberg, Fred Warner, and Ryan Hadaller pick up some friends; just another house party at "the Martel," their West Hollywood crash pad.

with a view and a pool in L.A. isn't out of the question, or the budget. There's a wealth of real estate—from cozy cottages and movie-set-like castles to Mediterranean Revivals and character-rich duplexes—just sitting there vacant and up for grabs. And there are scant few zoning boards to approve or turn away apartment applicants.

At the Martel, rent is split evenly among the guys, and at just \$1,725 a month, that means there's more money for buying high-tech televisions and clothes, eating out, and going on dates. "Drinks are 14 bucks at bars out here," says Warner. "After going out we'll be like, 'Are we going back to the Martel? Of course!'" In short, your house is the bar, devoid of the liquor markup. "There's ample street parking, and spillage is not a problem—that's the best thing about a raspberry-colored carpet," Warner says. "Besides, it's trashed after five years of parties, anyway."

Adler agrees. "Being from Hollywood, you watch *Entourage* and have to say that it's so dead-on. Here in L.A. we all live on a different clock," Shwayze chimes in. "It's a lifestyle, man, and everyone lives it here."

BUT CONTRARY TO THE RISE AND RISE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS of *Entourage*, the party must come to an end at some point. In fact, the exact Peter Pan syndrome that makes it attractive can bite one on the ass. After all, never being alone has its drawbacks. Strangers drink you out of house and home. Girls think you're weird—or gay. And when the time comes to finally settle down, you are unprepared, having lived in a constant state of codependency and arrested development. *Entourage* housemates set themselves up to be canaries in a coal mine.

Warner, for one, has been "hanging with people from college forever, and it hasn't stopped." And you can tell just by looking inside his housemates' rooms that things haven't changed much. "We have one bathroom for three guys...which blows," he groans. Entering the Martel's living room of thrift-store sofas and La-Z-Boys, it's clearly a shrine to protracted adolescence. Hadaller's room is a tornado of model planes and piled clothes. Ramberg's nook, with a sliding door and curtain standing in for a proper door, is filled with guitars, band posters, and skateboards. "Right now," he says, "I actually live like I did when I was 16, and I dress about the same. I came out to L.A. and reverted back to my teens!"

"Yeah, it kind of sucks when you want to bring a girl home, and she asks, 'How many roommates do you have?'" says Warner. "It makes for some funny but awkward mornings."

Perhaps the most pervasive downside to mutual dude cohabitation is

Warren is in it, because we aren't going to do it without him. Now he's collecting a \$100,000 residual check, which allows him to come along for the ride. We're just having fun, motherfuckers!" But are they, really?

To their credit, the writers of *Entourage*'s new season appear to be moving toward a reality check. In the final episode of last season, Vince's movie flops at Cannes; now he's grown a beard, fled to Mexico, and all of the gang are having something of a meltdown, as well as a comeuppance to the fact that you're only as good as your next movie.

Still, many members of *Entourage* houses say they intend to keep the party going for as long as they can. "I like being a poster boy for an endless summer," says Adler. "It's the new American dream. We're not just jerking off by the pool all day."

"No. We jerk off at night," Shwayze adds, "when no one's around."

FRIDAY NIGHT—HOUSE PARTY!—HAS ARRIVED AT THE MARTEL residence. And Hadaller, Ramberg, and Warner are prepping the place for a barbecue bash. The guest list is heavy with girls. In a couple of hours, the party is in full swing: Fat Tire is flowing, burgers are grilling, and the living room has been transformed into a clunky dance floor with Cake's cover of "I Will Survive" playing.

While the Dry Humpers can't compare to Vinnie Chase's starpower, you wouldn't guess that given the party's significant female "talent." By 10 P.M. the house and patch of sunburned yard are full of beautiful girls in short skirts and calf-clinging leather boots. As the night progresses, some minor celebs make appearances, like the entire posse from FuseTV's *Rad Girls*, the saucy female equivalent of *Jackass*.

Just past midnight things slow down. Some Peruvian Pink, one guest murmurs, may have ramped things up. The party ends earlier in L.A. than it does in Manhattan.

Revelers spill out onto the sidewalk, where they encounter a potbellied pig being walked by what appears to be a member of Slayer.

Warner, his hair wet from dancing, has a laugh. "You know, if we had more dough, we'd live the same way as we do now—just larger. I'm 34 and still have roommates that don't do the dishes," he says, cleaning up bottles. "But we have a great time." Ramberg adds, "If we had big money, it would still be the same situation. But I'd have a big skateboard ramp. And a jam room...and a pool, too."

Warner jumps in: "We'd build a clubhouse, maybe."

Ramberg disagrees. "This is the clubhouse. Always!"

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ZACHARY QUINTO

HEROES

Age: 31

TV alter ego: *Heroes* serial killer Sylar

He will Spock you: Quinto is set to don prosthetic ears alongside Eric Bana, Winona Ryder, and Leonard Nimoy in 2009's J.J. Abrams–helmed *Star Trek* reboot.

This season on *Heroes*: “It’s about how villainy lives in everybody—not just the people you expect.”

Fashion victim: “A year and a half ago, nobody cared what I wore, but now I have to be aware of what I’ve been photographed in. I went to a premiere wearing a baseball hat, a jacket, a T-shirt, and jeans, and some Web site actually compiled pictures from every other event where I had already worn those articles of clothing. I was like, ‘Are you serious?’”

The Vulcan secret: “For six weeks I couldn’t talk about getting the Spock role. The studio said, ‘If anyone finds out, we’ll pull the offer!’ Obviously, I was obedient, but it was killing me not to tell my friends and family.”

Spoiler alert: “J.J.’s *Star Trek* is an exploration of the characters everyone’s come to know over the past 40 years, but from a very different perspective...I’m totally trying to bullshit this answer. Can you tell? Let’s just say this: It’s definitely not your grandfather’s *Star Trek*.”

Zach wears:
Paul Smith suit, \$2,370,
and shirt, \$440.



LINUS ROACHE

LAW & ORDER

Age: 44

TV alter ego: *Law & Order* executive assistant D.A. Michael Cutter. "He's an edgy, aggressive guy who's willing to go that extra mile for the sake of justice."

Bonjour, Sam Waterston: "What's amazing about the show is that it's finding a life beyond America now as well. There's *Law & Order: UK* and also *Criminal Intent: Paris*, which is called *Enquêtes Criminelles*. It's amazing that you can translate these stories into any culture and they still work."

Worst gig pre-Hollywood: "When I was a student, I had a job picking tomatoes, and that was awful. I used to come out with the insecticide all over my hands, and I would feel sick. It was a mundane job, and I was crap at it—very slow. And we got paid by the weight! I hated it."

Personal style: "I'm not a sloppy dresser. I tend to dress pretty smart most of the time, but I don't want to be too slick. I just invested in a couple of suits—an Etro and an Armani. I've always wanted an Armani suit."

Kiefer madness: "I'm a 24 addict. I've seen every episode of every season, and I'm desperate for the next one. Once you get

hooked, you can't get off it. It's crack television. I did everything I could to get on the show. I was like, 'I'll do anything—just give me a line. I'll be a cop or a terrorist, whatever.' But no one responded to my call."

Linus wears:
DKNY suit, \$570; D&G shirt, \$245, and tie, \$130.
Girl wears:
BCBG dress, \$440.



DAMIAN LEWIS

LIFE

Age: 37

TV alter ego: Charlie Crews, the wrongfully convicted police officer on *Life*

The grind: "We work 16-hour days, which are exhausting. You have to be prepared or else you're thrashing around to keep your head above water. It's harder than it looks, but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Just another day at the office: "We did a scene where the U.S. silver medal sumo champion grabbed me by my shoulders and pushed me repeatedly against the side of this motor home. I thought I was going to lose my brain. Rarely am I physically afraid of someone, but I was absolutely terrified."

Worst gig pre-Hollywood: "The shittiest job I had was selling car alarms. I wasn't going around looking at people's

swanky cars saying, 'I think you could use the UP3Z-40.' I was cold-calling them on the phone. I'd get off the subway every day carrying my Walkman, which was the size of a brick, and I'd always hear the same song. Unfortunately, Phil Collins and

the worst song he ever wrote, 'Another Day in Paradise,' are forever connected with me selling car alarms. Phil put me in such a bad mood I was unable to charm the customers. It drove me fucking insane."

Damian wears: *Costume National* jacket, \$1,100 for suit; *Gap* oxford shirt, \$45; *Banana Republic* pants, \$148.
Girl wears: *Daughters of the Revolution* dress, \$250; *Alexis Bittar* bangle, \$195.

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NEIL PATRICK HARRIS

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

Age: 35

TV alter ego: Barney, the womanizing cad on *How I Met Your Mother*. "When it comes to women, Barney's advice would be quantity over quality. He's a master of excess in everything from alcohol to adventure. He doesn't care if he fails, because it makes the story that much more hilarious."

Comedy heroes: "Barney's not quite as bizarre as *Seinfeld*'s Kramer, but I like the kinetic energy Michael Richards brought to that role. I'm also a die-hard *Three's Company* fan, so there's a lot of Jack Tripper in what I do. Fifteen people slapped me last season, and I loved it."

The Britney factor: "It was pretty interesting when Britney Spears came on the show. I think she was a bit out of her element, but she's cool."

Personal style: "Since I wear a suit all day on the job, I don't tend to dress up much, but now that I'm 35 I feel like I should stop wearing crazy T-shirts. Time to switch to the short-sleeve button-down shirt, isn't it?"

Scratch that "Summer Nights" duet:

"Karaoke is one of my least favorite things in the world. To have to watch someone perform on a subpar level gives me the heebie-jeebies. If you're sober it looks like you're trying to live out a dream you never fulfilled."

Neil wears:
John Varvatos tuxedo,
\$1,795; shirt, \$245,
and tie, \$125.

Girl wears:
Just Cavalli dress, \$750.

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MATTHEW RHYS BROTHERS & SISTERS

Age: 33

TV alter ego: Kevin, the openly gay brother on *Brothers and Sisters*

All-time favorite shows: "The A-Team and *The Dukes of Hazzard*. I'd come in after playing soccer all day, and those shows would be on—they were slightly halcyon days. You look back and say, 'Oh, those were great times, so the shows must have been great, too.' I wonder if I watched them now whether I'd be like, 'Oh, they're shit.'"

All shook up: "Elvis was where it all began. I played him in a school production and fell in love with acting. Every cliché an actor trots out is true: The girls love it, you're being lauded, it's a complete ego stroke. And I just thought, *Imagine making a living doing this.*"

You like me, you really fucking like me:

"When things go wrong, Sally Field lets rip with a good curse word. Everyone's like, 'Wow! Sally Field swears!' Sure, all the rest of us do, too, but we're not the Flying Nun or Gidget, so it doesn't have the same impact."

Torture test: "If I were to choose a subject that interested me least, it would be clothes."

Matthew wears: **Dolce & Gabbana** jacket, \$1,875, shirt, \$475, and tie, \$195. **Girl wears:** **Daughters of the Revolution** dress, \$250.

What I love about L.A. weather is that I can put on shorts, flip-flops, and T-shirts most of the year, and I'm happy. That's my uniform. If I have to go into a clothing store, I start to weep. That's my idea of hell—shopping."

ZACHARY LEVI CHUCK

Age: 27

TV alter ego: The eponymous computer geek turned secret agent on NBC's *Chuck*

How he spent his hiatus: "Playing video games—*Call of Duty*, *Gears of War*, *Rock Band*. Oh, and lots of Ping-Pong and beer pong. I'm no Forrest Gump, but I can hold my own."

TV obsessions: "If I died and I had to come back as a television show, it would be *Three's Company* or *Lost*."

Personal style: "I don't care much about fashion. I'm a jeans, T-shirts, and Chuck Taylors kind of guy. I wish Adam and Eve didn't fuck things up for everybody, so we could continue to run around naked. It'd make life so much easier."

This season on *Chuck*: "There'll be lots of big stunts and wire work. In the first few episodes, I fall off of three build-

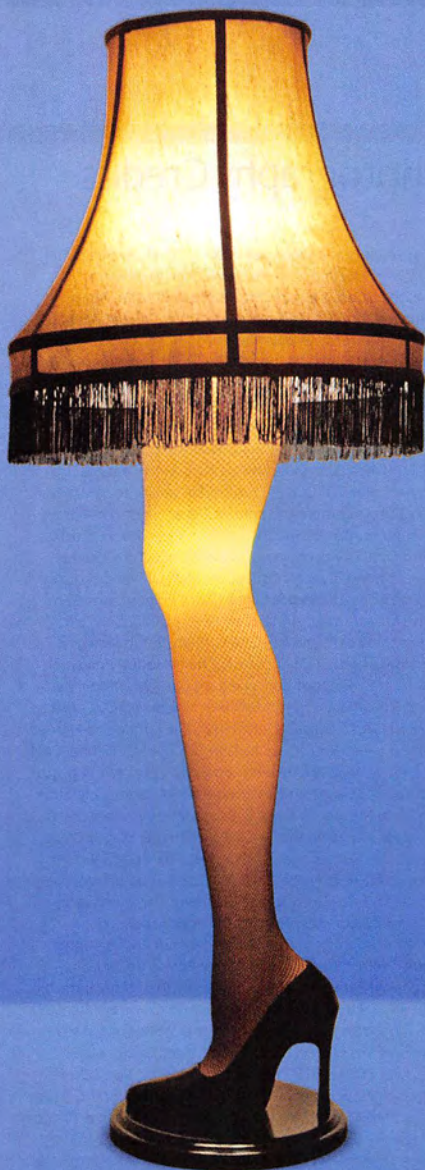
ings. We've also got great guest stars, like Michael Clarke Duncan, who plays a bad guy, and John Larroquette, who teaches seduction to the CIA."

Straight flush: "The most fun high jinks we have at work is crapping in each other's trailers. Things are pretty scatological on set. I'm serious."

Taking it to the big screen: "I've got some irons in the fire for after this season of *Chuck*. There are a couple of really cool projects, but let's be honest—they'll probably end up bypassing me for John Krasinski."

Zach wears: **Prada** suit, \$2,795, shirt, \$415. **Girls wear (from left):** **Iodice** dress, \$388; **Diesel Black Gold** dress, \$200; **Diesel Black Gold** dress, \$200; **Daughters of the Revolution** dress, \$250.

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Where to Buy



p.101: Zachary Quinto: Paul Smith suit, \$2,370, shirt, \$440, Paul Smith stores **p.102:** Linus Roache: DKNY suit, \$570, select Macy's stores; D&G shirt, \$245, tie, \$130, dolcegab-bana.it. Girl: BCBG dress, \$440, bcbg.com. Damian Lewis: Costume National jacket, sold as suit, \$1,100, Atrium, NYC; Gap Oxford shirt, \$45, Gap stores nationwide; Banana Republic pants, \$148, bananarepublic.com. Girl: Daughters of the Revolution dress, \$250, dotrclothing.com; Alexis Bittar bangle, \$195, alexisbittar.com **p.104:** Neil Patrick Harris: John Varvatos tuxedo, \$1,795, shirt, \$245, tie, \$125, johnvarvatos.com. Girl: Just Cavalli dress, \$750, select Just Cavalli boutiques **p.106:** Matthew Rhys: Dolce & Gabbana jacket, \$1,875, shirt, \$475, tie, \$195, dolcegab-bana.it. Zachary Levi: Prada suit, \$2,795, shirt, \$415, select Prada boutiques. Girls: Diesel Black Gold dress, \$200, diesel.com; Iodice dress, \$388, Portofino, Beverly Hills; Daughters of the Revolution dress, \$250, dotrclothing.com; Diesel Black Gold dress, \$200, diesel.com.

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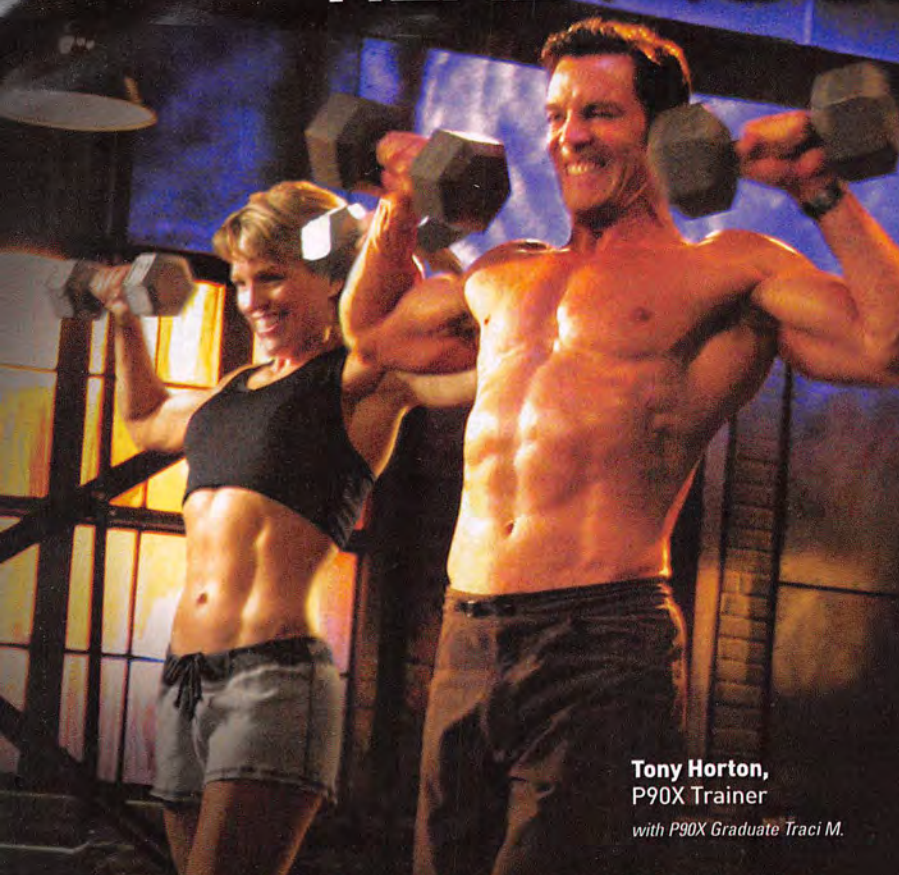
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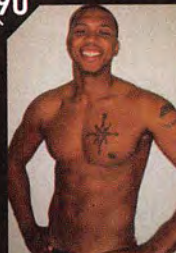


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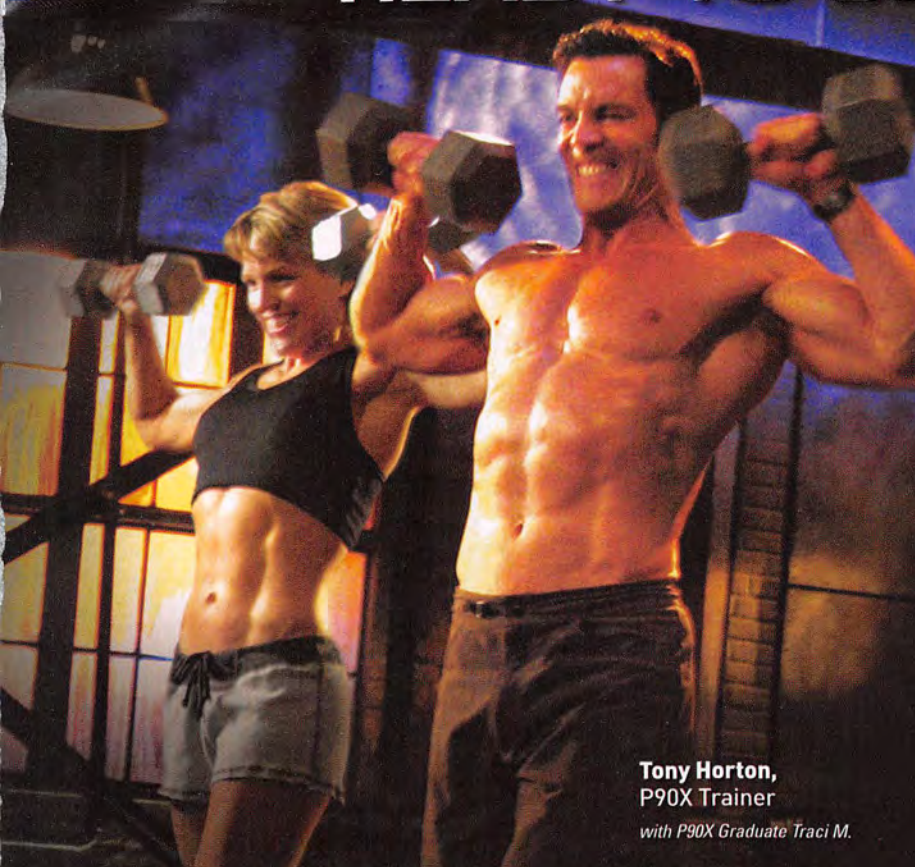
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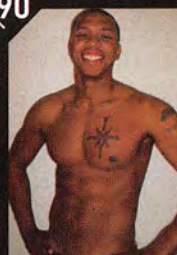


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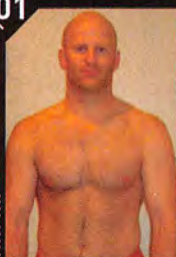


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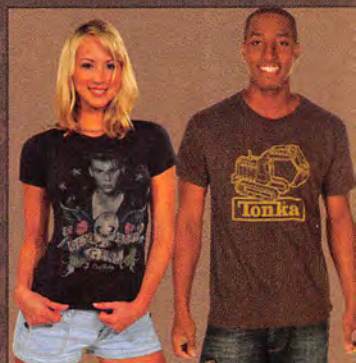
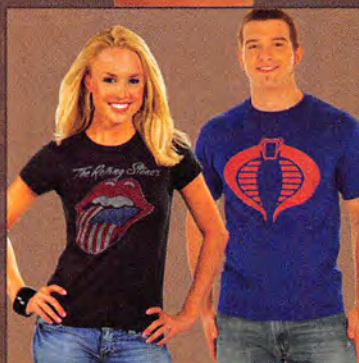
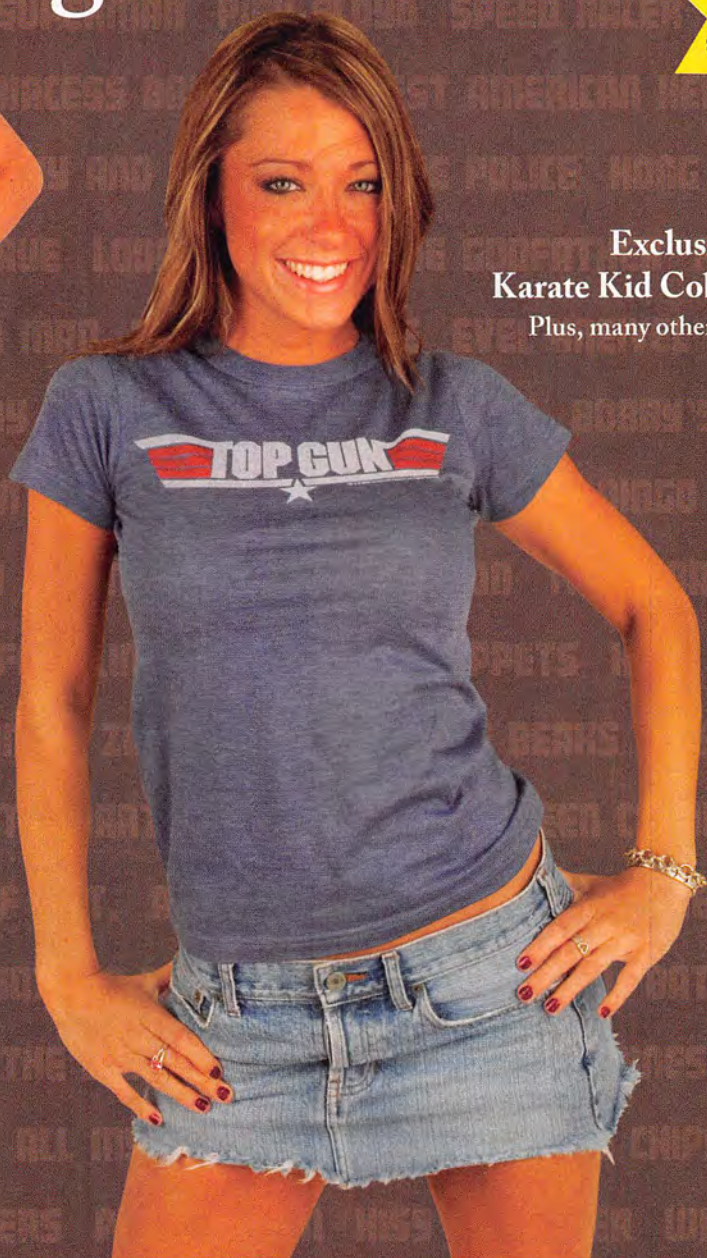
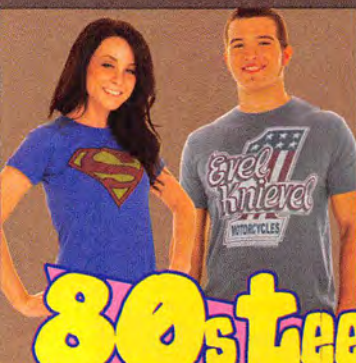
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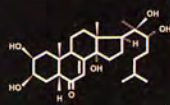
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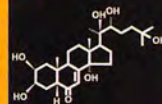
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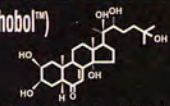


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Male Enhancement Pills ...

Is it a Hoax or Do They Really Work?

Dr. Daniel Stein, M.D.

I wish I had a dollar for every patient or person that asked me over the last few years about increasing the size of "that certain part of the male body." The preoccupation with size that men have is a mystery to most women. The fact is it is completely normal for most men to want to be larger. It doesn't matter if they are smaller than average, average, or larger than average. It's even been my experience that guys that are almost too big, so big in fact that many women won't go near them with a ten foot pole (sorry about that) still want to be larger!

I was so intrigued by this fact that I started to do research about the "so called" male enhancement pills that came on the market several years ago. The concept that a simple pill could noticeably increase the size of a man's organ seemed plausible, but I wanted to know more. I had done much research over the years about certain sexually enhancing compounds available, so I believed the concept was sound that a pill could be made to make a man larger.

My first task was to look at some of the ads I had seen in magazines for male enhancement. There were some amazing claims by many of these makers. My personal favorite was a cream that claimed to make men instantly larger. I had to laugh out loud when I read what it said. The ad read, "apply cream, rub vigorously, increase your size." I thought for a minute and then decided you could put virtually anything on a man, including guacamole, and if he rubbed vigorously it would increase his size. Then there was an ad for a pill, that if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches in just a few *short* days (sorry about the "short" comment).

I'm sorry, but after all those years of medical school, I know enough about anatomy to know that a guy who is 5 inches in length isn't going to add 3 to 4 inches to his little friend unless he buys a rope, gets a large brick, finds a bridge and...well, you get the picture. At about this time I was beginning to think that perhaps these makers hadn't found the magic mixture of compounds I had hoped they might have.

As the founder of both the Stein Medical Institute and the Foundation for Intimacy, I have spent most of my adult life trying to improve men and

"a pill that, if taken daily, would increase the length of a man by 3 to 4 inches."

women's sexual health. I pride myself on being the best medical doctor I can be and my reputation is important to me. So, when out of the clear blue sky, I got a call from the makers of Extenze, the leader in male enhancement, wanting me to be in one of their TV commercials, I thought, "Boy, did they pick the wrong guy!"

Little did they know that I had done real research into this concept and had recently looked at some of these male enhancement products. But the makers of Extenze seemed to be genuinely

convinced that their product really worked, and they claim to have sold over 100 million capsules to men all over the world. "Over 100 million capsules taken by men." With that single declaration, they had my interest. Either Extenze really worked or these guys were the world's greatest snake oil salesmen. So I requested that they send me Extenze formula so I could review it, then we would talk.



I then visited the Extenze.com web site, where I found a page that showed the top twelve adult film stars, all holding Extenze and endorsing it. I thought to myself, "Is it possible Extenze actually works?"

The next day I received the proprietary Extenze formula and there it was, virtually all of the ingredients that I hoped would be in a male enhancement product, 19 pharmaceutical grade nutraceuticals. There was Yohimbe (which used to be available by prescription only,) L-Arginine, Maca...all of it was there.

I contacted the makers of Extenze the very next day and asked them what they needed me for. They explained that they had a desire to have a medical doctor in their T.V. commercials to talk about the effectiveness of the ingredients in Extenze. At that moment an idea sprang into my head. I told them if they would let me improve the formula of Extenze, I would do the commercial for free!

Before I knew it I was working with their

"they claim to have sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men."

chemists at the manufacturing plant where we added the most revolutionary thing to the formula of Extenze. We added DHEA, also known as the "mother of all hormones." DHEA is the most important human prohormone and is the prohormone that converts into testosterone in men. DHEA levels decrease with the aging. Production peaks in a man's early 20's, and declines about 10% every 10 years. Low levels of testosterone can lead to low sex drive and a smaller sex organ.

After a few more weeks of tweaking the formula of Extenze, we were done. The new Extenze formula has been selling even better than the old formula, with over 75% of sales to repeat customers. Extenze has been on the market for 7 years and has sold almost a quarter of a billion capsules to men all over the world. It doesn't matter if you're 18 or 80 years old. In my opinion Extenze can make you larger, harder and increase both your intensity and pleasure and it is as simple as taking a single tablet daily. Extenze is so sure it would work for anyone that they're sending out a free one-week supply of Extenze for nothing more than the cost of a postage stamp. You can contact them directly at 800-586-0302. I recommend any man healthy enough to engage in sexual activity should try Extenze. You have nothing to lose but a lot to gain. ★

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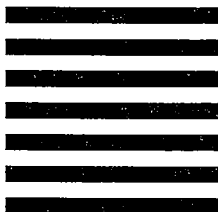
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